THE HISTORY OF THE Miss BALTIMORES;

IN A SERIES OF LETTERS.

VOL. I.

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THE

HISTORY, &c.

LETTER I.

MISS BALTIMORE

TO

MISS CHAMBERS.

B— L— School.

I HAVE taken up my pen to try to expreſs the joy I feel at my dear Lucy's return to England. I and

my ſiſter have miſſed you very much ſince you left ſchool: you aſk, if all the ladies are here ſtill? They are. The ladies Betty and Lucy Modely talk of quitting it ſoon; they are as proud and haughty as ever, therefore none of us will regret their departure: all the reſt are here ſtill. You ſay, you are contented and happy; I don't know, my dear, what reply to make; I have no particular reaſon to be otherwiſe, and yet there is ſomething hangs upon my ſpirits which I cannot account for; but I believe it is becauſe I have not ſeen nor heard from Sir Edward nor Lady Baltimore for for ſome time. Is it not rather ſur-

priſing, my dear, that our father and mother ſhould keep my ſiſter and me ſo long at ſchool? but they know what is beſt for us; and as we are perfectly aſſured of their affection, ought to make ourſelves contented, till they think proper to recall us. —— My dear friend will think me very dull; therefore will haſten to conclude, with aſſuring my dear Lucy of my unalterable affection and eſteem.

Your's,

KITTY BALTIMORE.

P. S. My ſiſter writes by the ſame poſt.

LETTER II.

FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME.

PERHAPS when my Lucy receives this, ſhe will not deign to open it; but forgive me, my dear, I forgot to whom I was writing; I know you are above ſuch meanneſs, and will pity the misfortunes of thoſe you once honoured with the appellation of friends. I therefore will haſten to inform you what has befell us ſince I laſt wrote: on the Wedneſday after, Mrs. M—— propoſed giving us a ball, and inviting ſome of the young ladies' friends to it; among the number, were

Miſs

Miſs Nevil's father, mother, and brother; the latter's diſcourſe turning upon poetry, he drew out of his pocket a Newſpaper, and read ſome very fine verſes therein; when he had finiſhed reading, I begged him to lend it me. I took the fatal paper, and turning it on the other ſide, the firſt paragraph I caſt my eye upon, was the following:——"Yeſterday morning as Sir Edward Baltimore was riding in Hyde-park, he was thrown from his horſe, and killed on the ſpot."—— I ſaw no more, but ſunk on the floor; how long I continued ſo, I know not; but when I recovered, found my dear ſiſter in the ſame condition, ſhe

having taken up the fatal paper to find out the cauſe of my fainting, which reduced her to the ſame condition. We immediately quitted the room, and went to Mrs. M——, when the firſt perſon we ſaw was one of my father's footmen: Mrs. M—— looked the picture of deſpair. I could not help exclaiming, O! my God, what will become of us! Tell me truth, (turning to the man) how is our dear mother? — "O! Miſs," cried he, "I am ſorry to inform you that ſhe is very ill, and I am come to fetch you to receive her laſt bleſſing." We went up ſtairs, hurried on our hats, and went into the coach; we got home,

and

and run up to our dear mother's chamber; but, oh! my God, what did we behold? — the once beautiful Lady Baltimore, now pale and emaciated! ſtretched on her bed, ſeemingly without ſenſe or motion. We approached the bed, ſunk on our knees, and each taking a hand, bathed it with our tears: ſhe faintly ſaid, "O! my children, do I once more behold you!" Then, calling her nurſe, bid her raiſe her up with pillows, and then quit the room; ſhe then addreſſed us both: "My dear children, ceaſe your mourning, this is but the beginning of ſorrows, my time is ſhort, hear what I have to ſay; I

am going to a better place; all my affliction is about you; prepare to hear the fatal news; you have hitherto been brought up to high expectations, but, my children, what muſt you feel, when I inform you, that you have not a penny in the world to call your own; your poor father has entirely ruined himſelf by gaming; but for my ſake, my dears, whatever befalls you, never reflect upon him, who was the author of your being, but remember we are all ſubject to errors. My deareſt children, whatever you ſuffer, whatever you go through, never forſake the paths of virtue; whenever you are in any trouble,

pray

pray to the Almighty to help you out of it; though you meet with trouble and vexation for a while, yet put your truſt in God, and walk in the paths of virtue, and he never will forſake you. You, my Kitty," turning to me, "are a twelvemonth older than your ſiſter, and though you may juſtly ſay, that eighteen is not an age to have much diſcretion, yet I truſt you are both endowed with ſenſe enough to get your bread by honeſt induſtry, rather than be beholden to any of your former acquaintance." She then, pointing to a drawer, bid us go and open it, and we ſhould find a thouſand pounds, all ſhe had in

her power to ſave for us: ſhe deſired us to put it by, as the creditors would, the moment the breath was out of her body, ſeize on all they could find; ſhe then gave us a letter to give our uncle, who inherits the eſtate and title from our dear father; ſhe told us ſhe had recommended us to his protection, but ſhe bid us not rely on him, as he was very proud and haughty; ſhe then took a laſt embrace. As for us, we were unable to make any reply, but with our tears. She made a motion for us to withdraw; we ſent the nurſe into the room, and returned ourſelves in about half an hour. We approached the bed;

ſhe

ſhe caſt her eyes upon us; then lifting them up to Heaven, cloſed them for ever. We ſaw no more, but ſunk in a fit on the floor: when we recovered, we found ourſelves in another room. You, my dear friend, can beſt judge how we felt; the next morning my uncle arrived, we gave him the letter; he ſaid he was ſorry for our misfortunes, but we muſt quit the Houſe immediately, as it was filled with creditors; he was ſorry he had it not in his power to help us, but the eſtate was ſo encumbered with debts, that he did not know how to clear himſelf: if we choſe to go to his houſe, we might, till we could think of

ſome way of getting our bread. For our parts, we were ſo petrified at his behaviour, that he might have talked for ever, and not met with any interruption from us; but when I found he had done ſpeaking, and waited for a reply, I made him the following: "We are much obliged to you, Sir, for your kind offer; but you ſhould remember, that though we are without money, and conſequently without friends, yet we are the daughters of the late Sir Edward Baltimore; and though we are obliged to beg our bread from door to door, we never will be beholden to you for a penny. God, who will always protect the

innocent

innocent, will protect us, two helpleſs orphans: adieu! and may you one day repent, before you die, the uſage you have given the children of one of the beſt of brothers; for ſuch he always was to you." Saying this, I flung out of the room, my ſiſter following me: we then once more viſited the chamber, where our dear mother's corpſe lay, and watering it with our tears, quitted the houſe in a ſtate of mind eaſier to be conceived than deſcribed; we have taken a lodging, and changed our name to MOUNTFORT; therefore, my dear, if you deign to honour us with a letter, direct in

that

that name. I went and paid Mrs. M—— what was due to her, and fetched our cloaths away; ſhe ſeemed ſorry at our leaving her, yet ſhewed that kind of pity, ſo common to little minds, that told me ſhe heard in what manner we were left. I have wrote this while my ſiſter is laid down; my fingers are ſo cramped, and my eyes ſo heavy, I muſt conclude. I am,

My dear Miſs Chambers,

KITTY BALTIMORE.

LETTER III.

MISS CHAMBERS TO MISS BALTIMORE.

AND could my dear friends be ſo ungenerous to think their Lucy would mind the vain talk of the world? Fie, my dears; but as I intend this as a letter of comfort, not of chiding, I will ſay no more on that ſubject. O! my God, what muſt you have gone through? That vile uncle! I could freely tear him to pieces. My dear, I ſhall make this but ſhort, as I intend inſtantly ſetting off for London to

ſee

ſee you; therefore you may expect to ſee me perhaps as ſoon as my letter. Pray give my love to my dear Harriot, and aſſure her and yourſelf of my unalterable eſteem and affection.

Your's, more than ever,

L. CHAMBERS.

LETTER IV.

MISS CHAMBERS TO LADY SOPHIA MORELAND.

London.

I ARRIVED here late laſt night, but would not delay complying with my dear Sophia's requeſt longer than this morning. Immediately on my arrival, I went to my dear friends' lodging; I found them reading when I entered; we flew into each other's arms, unable to utter a ſyllable: joy for the preſent, and grief for the paſt, alternately took place; I begged them to make uſe of my

houſe

houſe and fortune, but all in vain; they will not hear of any ſuch thing; their preſent intention is to wait on ladies; but that I ſhall diſſuade them from, as they never can brook the uſage of our modern ladies of quality. It was in vain for me to plead that for an excuſe; they ſaid they had been ſo inured to misfortunes, that would be nothing: I then laid before them the riſk they run of being known, if they waited on ladies; and beſides, you will find few inclined to take two ſuch handſome young women into their houſes. They ſaid, as to being known, there was little fear, as they were ſeldom or ever at home; to be ſure, if any

of

of their ſchool-fellows ſhould find them out, they would certainly expoſe them: they then ſtarted another ſcheme of being governeſſes to two young ladies, and then they ſhould not care if they were found out, though they would rather not. I told them that would never do, as no lady would care to truſt her children with two ſuch young people: "No, my dears, take my advice, come live with me; I promiſe never to control you in any thing." But all in vain; they would not hear me.

Wedneſday,

Wedneſday, four o'clock.

I went to my young friends early this morning, and found them quite in ſpirits, as they had juſt heard ſome good news. "But before I acquaint you with it, my dear Lucy, don't attempt to control me," ſays Kitty; "the perſon where we lodge is a very good ſort of woman; ſo we aſked her to help us to ſome needle-work; laſt night, after you was gone, ſhe came up, and told us ſhe had juſt received a letter from her ſiſter, who was a milliner at Bath, and deſired her to enquire if there was any young gentlewoman that wanted a ſhop, as ſhe and her huſband

uſband were going to retire from uſineſs; therefore, as I heard you ay, ladies, you ſhould like ſuch n offer, I thought I would let you now, as ſhe will make the terms ery eaſy. I told her I ſhould be lad of the offer, but we underſtood othing of the buſineſs; ſhe ſaid hat was nothing, as there were hree very deſerving young people, who had been with her ſiſter ever nce ſhe had been in buſineſs, and othing was required of us but to ait on the ladies, and give out ma- erials for the work: I told her we hould conſider of it. And, now, y dear friend, tell us ſincerely, on't you think this a good ſcheme."

I could

I could not help burſting into tears; "O my God! my dear friends," ſaid I, "why won't you accept my offer." They replied, weeping, "Do not aſk us, we cannot conſent to it." I found it in vain to preſs them any farther; ſo told them it was the moſt eligible undertaking; I ſat an hour or two, and then left them, to tell Mrs. Green (the miſtreſs of the houſe) they intended to accept her offer. I think this is the beſt they can do, as ſo much beauty and innocence cannot long be concealed. Adieu, my dear friend. Believe me

Your's,

L. CHAMBERS.

P. S.

P. S. As ſoon as the dear girls are gone to Bath, I ſhell ſet off for Moreland Abbey.

LETTER VI.

EDWARD BALTIMORE, ESQ.

TO

COLONEL RAWDON.

DEAR CHARLES, London.

I ARRIVED in this ſcene of buſtle laſt night, and this morning went to my father's houſe; he received me very kindly, but as he was in deep mourning, I gueſſed ſome of his relations muſt be dead. "You ſeem ſurpriſed, Edward," ſaid

ſaid he, "to ſee me in this dreſs, and more ſo, when I tell you, your uncle and aunt Baltimore are both dead; he entirely ruined himſelf by gaming; and ſhe, poor woman, I believe, died of a broken heart." — O! my God, Charles, what did I feel when I heard of the death of this worthy couple; I was ſo affected, that, in ſpite of my ſex, tears ſtarted into my eyes. "But tell me, Sir," ſaid I, turning to my father, "what is become of my lovely couſins?" He replied, reddening, he knew nothing of them; then looking at his watch, he ſaid, "You will hardly have time to dreſs for dinner, therefore I will

leave

leave you." I went up to my room in a ſtate of mind not to be deſcribed; as by my father's behaviour, I am led to think he has not behaved well to my couſins; where can they be? They certainly ought to be in this houſe, as they have no other relation. I long, yet dread to hear the particulars. I hear my father coming, and have not began to dreſs, ſo muſt break off. Adieu.

Eleven at Night.

Well, Charles, I am ſet down to write, but in ſuch a ſtate of mind, I hardly know where to begin. I broke off abruptly; I told you my father was coming; he entered my

room with ſo gay an air, he ſurpriſed me. "Heyday! Edward," ſaid he, "what, writing inſtead of dreſſing; I ſuppoſe to ſome favourite miſtreſs." "No indeed, Sir," ſaid I, "I am not; it is to my friend, Colonel Rawdon." "Well," ſaid he, "I ſhall not enquire into your amours abroad or at home, as I ſhall always leave the choice of a wife to yourſelf, provided ſhe is a woman of family and fortune." I was dreſſed in a ſhort time, as you know that is a buſineſs I abhor; when my ſervant had quitted the room, I ſaid, "Will you oblige me, Sir, with the particulars of my dear uncle and aunt's death, and likewiſe

likewiſe tell me what is become of their daughters, as I long to embrace them?" "Indeed, Edward," ſaid he, "this is a very wrong time to ſtart ſuch a ſubject; but, however, I will tell you as ſhort as poſſible, as for the future I ſhall inſiſt upon your never mentioning their name. —— When you quitted England, the girls were at ſchool, and there they continued till three months ago; Sir Edward wrote me he had entirely ruined himſelf by gaming, and deſired to ſee me immediately in town, for I was then in the country; I intended ſetting out on the following day; juſt as I was ſtepping into my chaiſe, a ſervant arrived, to inform

me, that Sir Edward, riding in Hyde-park, was thrown from his horſe, and killed on the ſpot; and that his lady was very ill, and deſired to ſee me before ſhe died: you muſt think how this ſurpriſed me; I got into the carriage immediately; but being ſo far off, (for I was in Wales at the time) I arrived too late to ſee her alive. Her daughters preſented me with a letter from their mother; I read it, and found thereby that their father had left me little or no eſtate, as he had totally ruined himſelf by gaming; I found the houſe full of creditors, and thought it a very improper place for the young people to ſtay in; ſo offered them

them an aſylum in mine, till they could think of ſome method to provide for themſelves." O, Charles! what a galling ſpeech! provide for themſelves! his own brother's children! But to go on; (for I did not think it conſiſtent with my duty to interrupt him,) "but Miſs Kitty," continued he, "made a very ſaucy reply, which I do not care to repeat, nor do I remember. I have now done, Edward," ſaid he. "O, Sir!" cried I, "why could you not make them ſtay in your houſe; you have money enough to ſupport them, till they met with men they could approve of for their huſbands; as I am ſure there are many who would

be proud to have ſuch lovely accomplished women for their wives." I here left off ſpeaking. "Well, Edward," ſaid he, "this is your opinion; but conſider, young man, you are too young to dictate to your father; therefore, ſay no more on the ſubject, as I have one to communicate, which I hope will prove more agreeable." He looked at me with a very penetrating eye; I bowed, but made no anſwer; when he thus went on: "You muſt know, Edward, that having met with a lady who has taken a liking to my perſon," —— (You may be ſure, Charles, this roused all my attention,) —— "I have made her an

offer of my hand and fortune; in ſhort, I am going to be married." "Married, Sir!" repeated I; "Yes, married, Sir;" replied my father, "why not?" reddening, "I ſhall not hurt you by it, any more than if I remained ſingle." A loud rap at the door announced company.—"There!" cried he, with a lover-like impatience, which made me ſmile, "is Lady Charlotte; chear up, my lad, and I will preſent you to your future mother-in-law."—Saying this, he quitted the room, and I followed. I am ſo tired and ſleepy, my dear friend, I cannot go on. So adieu. Your's,

ED. BALTIMORE.

LETTER VIII.

FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Wedneſday morn, two o'clock.

WELL, my friend, here am I ſeated, at this early hour, or rather late, to go on with my narration. I followed my father into the parlour, where were about ſeven or eight ladies and gentlemen aſſembled; my father preſented me to one of the ladies, ſaying, "This is Lady Charlotte Herbert, the lady I mentioned to you;" I, for my part, looked more abaſhed than the lady, ſhe having too much quality aſſurance to be out of countenance; the

eyes

eyes of the whole company were upon me, I ſuppoſe to ſee how I ſhould receive my future mother-in-law. When the compliments of welcoming me to England, and ſo forth, were over, I took my ſeat, and thoroughly examined Lady Charlotte: and now, Charles, for a deſcription of her. She ſeems to be about nineteen or twenty; —— a very fit age for a man of ſixty! --- but mum for that: ſhe is rather above the middle ſize; complexion rather dark; her eyes black; her mouth is well enough, if ſhe did not ſpoil it by an almoſt inceſſant laugh, which, I ſuppoſe, is to ſhew her fine teeth, which are really ſo. ——

Well, Charles, there is her picture, as nearly as I can give it; as to her behaviour, it was ſuch as, I am ſorry to ſay, I'm ſure will make my poor father very unhappy, if he has her, which is paſt a doubt; in ſhort, I paſſed a very diſagreeable day, and was glad to plead fatigue, for an excuſe to retire early. —— Well, my friend, what think you of all this? But, Oh! my God, where are now my lovely couſins wandering? My beloved Kitty! did I think of this when I took my leave of you to go upon my travels? Good God! I think I now hear her ſay theſe words, with tears running down her lovely cheeks, "Adieu, Edward! God

God bleſs you, and ſend you a ſafe journey; and if ever we meet again, may we love each other as well as we do now we are going to part." Yes, Kitty, I do love you ſtill, with the ſame pure affection as I did then. I was then young, and had not ſeen any other woman, to know the difference. You know, Charles, I was but fifteen when I left the Univerſity, to go upon my travels; Kitty was but fourteen, Harriet thirteen; ſo you ſee there is one year difference between all three. You have often wondered, that I never was touched with any of the fine women I have ſeen abroad. You will perhaps ſay, it was not acting like a

friend, not to tell you of this; but indeed, Charles, I hardly knew I loved, till I came to England, and found I could not see her. —— It is now four o'clock, and I am very tired; I suppose you will be the same before you reach the end of this long letter; therefore I will bid you adieu.

Your's sincerely,

ED. BALTIMORE.

P. S. Pray write soon.

LETTER IX.

MISS K. BALTIMORE TO MISS CHAMBERS.

Bath.

WELL, my dear friend, here we are as happy as our ſituation will let us; 'tis true, it appears hard at firſt, but why? there are many young people who look as delicate as any of our fine ladies do; nay, more ſo; therefore, why ſhould we think it harder? we were not brought up to that expectation; that is all the difference, my dear. I think it is the beſt thing that could have happened to us, as it will teach

us to ſet a proper value upon thoſe who contribute to the ornament and conveniency of us, and not to give ourſelves airs, as the ladies do here to us: indeed, my dear friend, I am quite content; I can laugh at all the impertinence they are pleaſed to honour me with.——Though my dear friend has forbid me to ſpeak, I muſt, or my heart will burſt with gratitude: did you think to ſlip that hundred pound note into my pocket-book without my perceiving it;—ought we to repine, when, in the midſt of our diſtreſs, God has raiſed us ſuch a friend as you, when every one, even him who was our neareſt relation, ſlighted us.——Apropos! I wonder

I wonder whether our couſin Edward is come to England, and if he has forgot us; he promiſed to love me as long as he lived, as the ſong ſays, but he was too young then to know what he ſaid, and has ſeen too many women ſince ever to think of his dear Kitty, as he uſed to call me. Heigh-ho! I think I am very dull, therefore had beſt leave off. Adieu, my deareſt friend, ever as uſual,

K. BALTIMORE.

P. S. I forgot to tell you we go by the name of Mountfort.

LET-

LETTER X.

COLONEL RAWDON TO EDWARD BALTIMORE, ESQ.

AND ſo my dear friend is really in love! — nay, don't ſtart, man, for it is really ſo. I thought you could not have been ſo indifferent to all our beauties here, who have diſplayed every charm to catch the inſenſible Anglois, as they called you, if that ſly urchin, Cupid, had not ſtole into your breaſt. Well, my friend, I will try now to be ſerious: ſo your father is actually going to play the fool, and marry; Lord,

Lord, man, never mind it; her young ladyſhip will ſoon break his heart. "Fye, Charles!" cries my ſober friend, "do you know who you ſpeak of?" Yes, Ned, who I ſpeak of, but I forgot to whom I was writing; well, I know you will excuſe me, as it is impoſſible for me to be ſerious. —— If you can't live happy at home, why come to me: O! cry-ye mercy; I forgot, I ſuppoſe you are going in ſearch of your little Kitty; well, but ſuppoſe you can't find *her*, take a trip to me, who will receive you with open arms. Well, I ſhall ſtill hold to my maxim, that when love once gets hold of you ſentimental fellows,

there

there is nothing but ſighing and dying, and ſo forth; while we, gay fellows, are never troubled with the ſly urchin half an hour together; you have often told me, I ſhould one day ſuffer for it: well, be it ſo, I can't help it; but pray, Mr. Cupid, keep off as long as poſſible; and with this prayer I will conclude. So keep up your ſpirits, man, and all will go right at laſt: remember it is your friend Charles propheſies this. So adieu.

Your's,

C. RAWDON.

P. S. Pray write ſoon, and tell me how you go on.

LETTER XI.

MISS CHAMBERS TO MISS MOUNTFORD.

I RECEIVED my dear Kitty's letter, and am glad to hear you are tolerably happy; but am ſorry to inform you, I ſhan't have the pleaſure of ſeeing you and my dear Harriet at Bath this ſeaſon, as I am obliged to go to France with Lord and Lady Mourland; he is going for the recovery of his health, and ſhe, like an affectionate wife, accompanies him, and they both ſay they can't do without their dear Lucy; both

both my Lord and his lady have always been more like a father and mother, than diſtant relations, as you know, Kitty, my Lord was only my uncle's wife's brother; this leads me to think what a difference there is in relations; and as I am upon this topic, will tell you a piece of news, my dear: your uncle is going to be married, and who do you think to? no other than Lady Charlotte Herbert; you, I believe, have never ſeen her, though I have often ſpoke of her to you; ſhe is not above twenty, and what can induce her to marry ſuch an old man, except ſhe intends to break his heart ſoon? To be ſure, ſhe has

little or no fortune, and ſo giddy and flighty, that no man would care to venture on her for a wife; but he is going to have her, ſo let him look to it. I am afraid, my dear friend, I can't have the pleaſure of hearing from you before I leave England, but I will write as ſoon as I arrive at Paris, and let you know where to direct to me; I ſhall long to hear from you both. Pray give my love to dear Harriet, and believe your's, as uſual,

LUCY CHAMBERS.

LET-

LETTER XII.

EDWARD BALTIMORE, ESQ.

TO

COLONEL RAWDON.

WELL, Charles, the deed is done, and my father is really married: it is now three weeks, and I may venture to affirm, they both as heartily repent as any couple in England. As to the wedding, I ſhall paſs over: about a week after ſhe was married, ſhe had all the old-faſhioned furniture removed, and new put in its ſtead; you may be ſure that did not pleaſe my father; but he ſaid nothing: the week after, ſhe com-

plained the ſervants looked like a parcel of Welch goats, juſt come from the mountains.——"Do, my dear," ſaid ſhe, turning to Sir Edward, who ſat biting his lips, "do let me beſpeak new liveries for them to-morrow." "Juſt as your Ladyſhip pleaſes," replied he, "but you are the firſt of the family that ever found fault with them." Saying this, he left the room in a pet; ſhe laughed, and the next day new ones were ſet about.——The dinner bell rings; therefore will finiſh this after, Adieu.

Eleven

Eleven at Night.

WELL, Charles, I have a great deal to tell you. When I left off, I told you I was going to dinner; I went down, and was ſurpriſed to find nobody in the parlour but Sir Edward and his lady, as, ſince they have been married, the houſe has never been free from company; ſhe looked dreſſed, as if going out.—— We took our ſeats; I ſaw they looked each diſcontented: for my part, I did not know what to ſay; at laſt, I ſaid to my father, "Have you been out this morning, Sir?" "No," was all the anſwer I received; I ſaid no more. When dinner was over,

(for

(for we none of us eat much) my lady, turning to the footman, ſaid, in a haughty tone, "Order the coach to be here at ſeven!" The ſervant bowed, and withdrew.——"Where is your Ladyſhip going now, pray?" ſays my father. "I did not know," ſays ſhe, "when I married Sir Edward Baltimore, that I muſt never ſtir out without giving him an account where I was going; but, Sir, if you muſt know, I am going to Ranelagh with Lady Betty Newman." "I thought madam, you would have ſtaid at home to-night." "Good God!" cried ſhe, do you think I am to be pinned to your ſide like a child; I have ſtaid

at home all the morning to content you, though I had promiſed to go to the Muſeum with Lord Carleton, but through your abſurdneſs I have been obliged to diſappoint him, and now you would have me ſerve Lady Betty the ſame." "Promiſed to go to the Muſeum with Lord Carleton!" repeated Sir Edward; "Well, I now too late ſee my own folly; O! Edward, if I had taken your advice," looking at me, "I might have been happy;" ſaying this, he quitted the room. Though he ſpoke this low, yet it did not eſcape her Ladyſhip's ear. "O!" ſaid ſhe, "it is very well." "What is very well, madam?" cried I, (for I thought I had

been

been dumb long enough) "what is very well?" repeated I. "It is no matter, Sir;" replied ſhe, "as I don't make the leaſt doubt of your diſſuading your father againſt the match." "Certainly, madam," ſaid I, "I did try all that was in my power to diſſuade him from it; and if I could have done it, it would have been better for you both, I believe; you, my lady, ſhould have conſidered well, before you married a man of my father's age, whether you could put up with his humour." "I did not think he was ſubject to any ſuch humours," cried ſhe, interrupting me, "as he ſeemed to doat on me, and I was fool enough

to think he would deny me nothing." "I think, madam," ſaid I, "that he has let you do as you would, as you have made great alterations in this houſe." ——— A rapping at the door announced company; when they entered the room, I left it, and went in ſearch of my father, who I found walking about the room, in great diſorder; but what paſſed between us, you muſt wait for till to-morrow, as I am ſo tired I cannot go on; therefore adieu till to-morrow.

E. BALTIMORE.

LET-

LETTER XIII.

FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME.

WELL now, Charles, for a continuation of my narrative, for ſo it juſtly may be called. As I told you before, I entered the room, where my father was walking about, in great diſorder; I ſtood for ſome moments ſilent; but finding he did not perceive me, I ſaid, "My dear Sir, why afflict yourſelf thus?" "O, Edward!" replied he, "when I reflect how ridiculous I have made myſelf, by marrying ſuch a young chit, how can you wonder?—why could I not be content? I had one

good deſerving wife; why muſt I go to take another?" "Well, Sir," ſaid I, "what is done cannot be recalled; therefore, have a little patience; and who knows but a little gentle treatment, and a few mild admonitions may in time alter her, as ſhe is young and inexperienced. She is, you know, very handſome, conſequently fond of admiration; therefore, Sir, let her purſue pleaſure till ſhe is quite tired of it, and then perhaps ſhe may return to her duty." "Well, my ſon, this is your advice; I will try, but remember, Edward, I give her in your charge; take care of the precious truſt, for ſtill I love her to diſtraction." Saying this, he left

left me: ſo you ſee, Charles, what an unpleaſing taſk I have ſet; but, however, it amuſes my other thoughts. O, Kitty! where are you now wandering? I am diſtracted when I think of her. Therefore, adieu.

ED. BALTIMORE.

P. S. I forgot to tell you her ladyſhip is not yet returned from Ranelagh.

LETTER XIV.

MISS CHAMBERS

TO

MISS MOUNTFORD.

Paris, ——

WELL, my dear, here am I arrived at this gay metropolis; and I aſſure you, that though I have been here but one week, have got half a dozen lovers already. Now you muſt know, that amongſt them all there is not one that I have the leaſt penchânt for: but as I am going to a ball this evening, I ſuppoſe if I am to loſe my heart, I ſhall ſee the phenomenon that is to have it; ſo,

my

my dear, I think you will excuſe my bidding you adieu, when I tell you that I am going to adorn myſelf for conqueſt.

Paſt five o'clock in the morning.

WELL, my dear, as ſleep ſeems to have fled my eyes, I am ſet down to give you an account of the ball, or rather of a *man*. Nay, don't ſtart, my dear, for it is even as I prophefied. We entered the ball-room, that is, Lord and Lady Moreland, and your humble ſervant. I looked round the room to ſee what ſort of animals were there; but ſeeing nothing but a parcel of French pup-

pets dreſſed out quite a-la-mode de Paris, I haſtily turned my eyes, when caſting them towards the door, I ſaw a figure entering which ſeemed to attract the eyes of the whole aſſembly. A general buz run through the room upon his entering:—— "There he is!" cries one; "Is he quite recovered?" cries a ſecond; "How glad I am to ſee him!" cries a third.—You may be ſure theſe exclamations made me obſerve the man more particular: he was leaning on the arm of another gentleman.—Now, my dear Kitty, ſhall I give you a deſcription of this man or not!—Yes, cry you, by all means: well, then to begin---He ſeems to be about twenty-

twenty-ſix, about the middle ſize, neither lean like a Frenchman, nor fat like an Engliſhman: --- now for his face; his eyes are black and have a kind of archneſs in them, that when he looks upon you, it ſeems as if he was trying to diſcover what paſſed in your heart; he has a good mouth, and very good teeth :---- well, my dear, ſo much for Colonel Rawdon, for that is his name. After paying his compliments to all in the room, he advanced to me, and bowing, begged the honour of my hand, if not already engaged. I bowed my aſſent; --- we then joined the dancers; --- a general whiſper run through the ladies, --- "O, he

has found out his fair countrywoman." After dancing three dances, I offered to sit down, as he looked fatigued. He asked me how long I had been here; I told him about a week: --- he said it could not have been longer; but he had been very ill, and that was the reason he had not had the pleasure of seeing me sooner. His conversation was both polite and gallant; and I think he seems to be one who will improve on acquaintance. When the time drew near for our departure, he begged my permission to wait on me at my Lord's. I answered, that I made no doubt but Lord Moreland would always be happy to see Colonel Rawdon:

don: --- He bowed, and handing me into the coach, withdrew. While we were going home, my Lord and Lady rallied me on my conqueſt. I dont know how it was, but I could not anſwer their raillery as uſual. Bleſs me, there is ſeven o'clock, and I not in bed yet. Adieu, my deareſt Kitty; and believe me, your's as uſual,

LUCY CHAMBERS.

P. S. Direct for me at the Hotel Anglois a Paris.

LETTER XV.

COLONEL RAWDON

TO

EDWARD BALTIMORE.

WELL, Edward, I think I concluded my laſt, with deſiring Maſter Cupid to keep off as long as poſſible; but do you know, that the ſorry dog has come upon me unawares.--- The weapons he choſe were a pair of the ſweeteſt blue eyes in the world; and their fire was ſo quick, that my heart caught the flame immediately.--- And is it poſſible that thy friend Charles is in love?--- impoſſible! let me conſider; it was at a ball

ball I met and danced with her. Well, but Master Cupid had no buneſs in the dancing room: --- well, I will go and have t'other peep at my charmer, and then will tell you more about her.

C. RAWDON.

LETTER XVI.

FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME.

WELL, Edward, from the concluſion of my laſt, you certainly think me down right in love; but not ſo faſt as that neither, man: --- but I will tell you the whole. --- You muſt know, ſince my laſt I have been

been very ill of a fever, which confined me to my room almoſt a fortnight; but yeſterday I found myſelf well enough to go to a ball which was to be given that evening. Accordingly I went; but on entering the room, the firſt perſon I ſaw was one of the moſt beautiful young ladies I think I ever ſaw. I enquired of Gordon, who was with me, if he knew who ſhe was; --- he ſaid ſhe was a Miſs Chambers; that ſhe was with Lord and Lady Moreland, the former being come for the recovery of his health. To make ſhort of my ſtory, Edward, I danced with her; --- I aſked her permiſſion to ſee her next day; --- ſhe anſwered ſhe made

no

no doubt but Lord Moreland would always be happy to ſee Colonel Rawdon. About two o'clock this day I went to their lodgings; --- the ſervant conducted me into the parlour; --- Lord and Lady Moreland were ſitting at a window, and Miſs Chambers at her harpſichord; --- they all roſe at my entrance: --- after we were ſeated, and the uſual compliments were paſſed, I begged Miſs Chambers to go on with her ſong, which I had interrupted. She immediately aſſented, and played ſo delightfully, I could have liſtened for ever. I ſoon afterwards withdrew, not without a preſſing entreaty to renew my viſit, which you may be

ſure

ſure I ſhall. Upon my ſoul, Edward, ſhe is a charming girl, and has a fortune of thirty thouſand pounds; therefore I think my father can have no objection to her, as money, you know, is his chief deſire. Apropos, now I am talking of my father;---do you know I have had a letter from him, deſiring me to throw up my commiſſion, as he ſays my fortune will enable me to live without being in the army. Now I know that very well; but if my father ſhould take it into his wife noddle, not to approve the lady that I chooſe for a wife, he can cut me off with a ſhilling: and you know, though I am of age, he only allows

me

me eight hundred a-year, the title he cannot take from me; but the title of Lord, with only eight hundred a-year, --- I, with my notions, can never think of offering to the woman I ſhall chooſe for a wife; therefore, Edward, I will keep my commiſſion, at leaſt till I hear my father's reaſons for wiſhing me to give it up. Now you muſt know, that I think my father has a wife to propoſe; if he has, he is juſt a week too late; or if he had ſent to me, before I ſaw Miſs Chambers, I might have conformed to his will; but now it is too late, as I never can think of marrying any other woman but the divine Lucy Chambers. Therefore,

Edward,

Edward, with this pious reſolution, I will conclude myſelf

Your ſincere friend,

C. RAWDON.

P. S. I long to hear how you and your fine mother-in-law go on: --- pray let me hear from you ſoon.

LETTER XVII.

EDWARD BALTIMORE, ESQ. TO COLONEL RAWDON.

WELL, Charles, ſo you are really in love: you, that have ſo often boaſted that the ſly urchin ſhould never

never enter your breaſt more than half an hour together. I approve your deſign of not throwing up your commiſſion, as I think with you, that your father has provided a wife for you. I met his Lordſhip the other day in the Park: he aſked me when I heard from you; I told him not for ſome time, and I was afraid you was ill; he ſaid he was the ſame, as he had wrote but received no anſwer: --- "I ſhall write again to-morrow," continued he, "for I long to ſee him in England, as I grow old, and he is the only one that is not ſettled. --- I ſhould chooſe to ſee him provided with a good wife before I die." --- Another gentleman

coming up, our converſation ſtopped here; therefore, Charles, you know what you have to expect. Now for my own affairs: --- I believe I concluded my laſt with telling you, that her ladyſhip was not retured from Ranelagh; --- that was about one o'clock; --- about three ſhe came home. At nine the next morning I went down to the breakfaſt parlour, where I found my father reading. We had not been there above a quarter of an hour before my lady entered. I wiſhed her a good morning: ſhe did the ſame to me; and ſeating herſelf, rung for breakfaſt. We ſat ſilent ſome time, till at laſt I broke the charm,

charm, by aſking her ladyſhip how ſhe was entertained at Ranelagh. She made anſwer, never better in her life. I aſked her where ſhe propoſed going this morning? "To the *Muſeum*, if I am not diſappointed," ſaid ſhe, caſting her eyes at my father: he then roſe from his ſeat, and left the room. "If you have no objection, Madam," ſaid I, "I will attend you there:" ---"As to that, you may do as you pleaſe," ſaid ſhe; "but I expect Lord Carleton." As ſhe ſpoke his name, he entered the room; flew to her ladyſhip, and catching her hand, almoſt devoured it with kiſſes. "How does your ladyſhip? I hope you

caught

caught no cold last night?" and half a hundred such sort of speeches, which she answered much in the same manner. At last she got up and left the room: --- After his lordship had twirled himself round two or three times at the glass, he condescended to see me: --- "Lord bless me, Mr. Baltimore, I beg your pardon; I really did not see you before, Sir: I hope you are well." I smiled and bowed, which was all the answer I thought worth my while to return the puppy. My lady just then returning, hindered his saying any more. I immediately asked her if she was ready? "Yes, Sir," was her answer: ——then giving

giving her hand to his lordſhip, he led her to the coach, I following. He ſeemed both ſurpriſed and vexed that I was to be of the party. We then joined in ſomething like a converſation; in ſhort, Charles, after ſtaying at the Muſeum a couple of hours, we returned home. For three days after I attended her ladyſhip wherever ſhe went: ſhe has been at home all this morning, for I really believe ſhe is quite tired of having me for a beau; and I am ſure ſhe cannot be more ſick than I am. And now, Charles, you probably aſk me what I think of her behaviour? I don't believe ſhe means any harm; but at the ſame time I

don't like that fellow Carleton always being at her ſide, as I know he is a deep-laid villain after women, and he is both handſome and inſinuating. The dinner-bell rings, therefore I muſt break off; but if any thing happens during our meal, I will let you know. Therefore I will not cloſe this till I return.

ED. BALTIMORE.

LETTER XVIII.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Paſt ten o'clock.

WELL, Charles, here I am. I think I told you I was going down to dinner: well, I entered the dining parlour, where ſat my father jogging his foot, and my lady at ſome little diſtance, playing with her lap-dog. The ſervants coming in with the dinner, we ſeated ourſelves at the table in profound ſilence. When dinner was over, and the ſervants withdrawn, my father thus began: "My dear," turning to his wife, "I ſuppoſe you can make no ob-

jection now to going into the country, as this is the month I always chooſe to go in." Sir Edward pauſed here as if waiting for a reply; at length ſhe returned him this anſwer: "And ſo you really think, Sir Edward, I will conſent to be buried alive at this time of the year in the odious country: no, Sir, I aſſure you that I will not ſtir from here till after the birth-day." "O my dear," returned my father, "you can eaſily come to town time enough for the birth-day; and I am ſure, my dear, the country will be more conducive to your health than this nafty ſmoaky London." "It is in vain, Sir," ſaid ſhe, "to talk thus; for,

let the conſequence be what it will, I will not quit town yet. Good God! leave town at this time! no; though you have for ſome time treated me like a child, and ſet a watch over my conduct," caſting her eye upon me, "yet you ſhall not rule me in this: therefore, Sir, be aſſured, that I will not leave town till the 4th of June is paſt." She ſpoke this in a peremptory ſtile, which gave us reaſon to think ſhe would not alter her reſolution. My father roſe from his ſeat, and walked about the room in great perturbation; at laſt he exclaimed, "Well, Madam, have your own way;" with theſe words he left the room. We continued ſilent

for ſome time, till at laſt I was determined to ſee whether my tongue was glued to my mouth or not; and therefore began, by aſking her ladyſhip why ſhe had ſuch an implacable averſion to the country? her anſwer was, the very thoughts of the country threw her into vapours. I ſaid I was ſurprized at that, as I thought her ladyſhip was too fond of variety to be long contented in one place. She curtſeyed, and ſaid ſhe was ſure there was no variety in the country; therefore ſhe choſe to ſtay in town:--- "But I did not know when I married Sir Edward Baltimore, that I was to be under the direction of his ſon." Saying theſe words,

words, ſhe flung out of the room, and retired to her own, where ſhe has been writing ever ſince, but is now gone to bed; to which place I ſhall retire; ſo good night. Adieu.

ED. BALTIMORE.

LETTER XIX.

LORD RAWDON

TO

COLONEL RAWDON

Rawdon Place, April 16, 1773.

My dear Son,

MY fears for your ſafety makes me ſend this, as I am afraid, by re-

ceiving no anſwer to my laſt, it has either miſcarried, or what is much worſe, you are rendered incapable of reading, or at leaſt writing me an anſwer. Ah! a letter from my dear Charles! give it me! --- O, my ſon! — I find my fears were too prophetic, and you have indeed been ill; but, thank God, my ſon is better. There is but one thing, my dear Charles, which gives me pain, the ſlight way you mention coming to England; but if you have the leaſt regard for me, I beg you to haſten immediately to me: --- As to tell you the truth, I have looked out a wife for you; one, whom I ſhall expect you to marry, and one

who

who I hope you will approve of; now as ſoon as your health is recovered, I hope you will ſet off for London, and from hence for Rawdon-place, where you will find me ready to receive you with open arms; therefore my ſon adieu, and may God reſtore you your health, and grant you a ſafe journey to England, is the prayer of

Your affectionate father,

C. RAWDON.

LETTER XX.

COLONEL RAWDON TO EDWARD BALTIMORE, ESQ.

WELL Edward, I will ſuppoſe you have read my father's letter, which I encloſe; and now cry you, what do you intend to do? why, ſet out for England directly, and what is to follow Heaven only knows. Now Edward, would I give ſomething to have you near me, that I might aſk your friendly advice; but as you are not, I hardly know what to do; I ſometimes think that I will go and throw myſelf at the

the feet of my adorable Lucy, and then again I think to quit Paris without any formal leave, but only ſend a note to enquire after their health, and to let them know indiſpenſible buſineſs calls me to England. I certainly love Lucy Chambers better than any woman I ever ſaw, and I believe without vanity, I may ſay ſhe has no diſlike to me, at leaſt not to appearance, though women are in general deceitful; you will probably wonder at my heroic reſolution of quitting France, without telling Miſs Chambers how much I adore her; why you muſt know, Edward, as I have not ſeen the lady whom my father

has picked out for me, I am not ſure whether I may not like her as well as Miſs Chambers; and as you ſee my father commands as well as deſires me to approve the lady, I think it the wiſeſt way to accept her, if ſhe is any thing tolerable. As to fortune, that I am ſure ſhe has, or ſhe would not be my father's choice; but indeed, Sir, if ſhe is ſome ignorant ape of quality, I will not have her, if ſhe is as rich as an Eaſtern princeſs. I have never ſaid any thing but common gallantry to Miſs Chambers, which I am ſure every man will pour into her ears that ſees her; but you will ſay, perhaps ſhe may marry and you may loſe

her: why, that is true, Edward; but if it is ſo, I ſhall be ſure ſhe had no regard for me, and a natural good ſtock of ſpirits will ſoon carry it off again. I hope you wont be gone into the country when I arrive in England, as I have a thouſand things to ſay, but muſt now bid you adieu to prepare for my journey.

Your's,

C. RAWDON.

LETTER XXI.

MISS MOUNTFORT

TO

MISS CHAMBERS.

I Suppoſe my dear Lucy is very angry with me for not having wrote ſooner; but indeed my dear I have not been well, but thank God I am now quite recovered. I have read your laſt letter ſeveral times over, wherein you mention Colonel Rawdon, and hope and likewiſe think he will prove worthy your eſteem, nay even love, my dear; for, don't be ſurpriſed when I tell you your heart is touched. I make no doubt

you

you will be ſurpriſed at my ſaying I think he will prove worthy your eſteem: you muſt know he was an intimate of my couſin Baltimore, and though I have never ſeen the Colonel I have always heard Edward give him the beſt of characters, but at the ſame time I have heard his father is a very ſtingy man, and whatever he ſets his mind on, he will have done at any rate. His money is his idol, or at leaſt uſed to be, except he is altered; but that you know my dear you have enough of, therefore that can be no objection. The Colonel is quite different from his father, as he was always doing ſomething or other to relieve

the

the poor, and many a time Edward has told me that my Lord has lectured him upon the little regard he had to money, but I believe he takes after his mother, as ſhe bore the beſt of characters. All this I have heard from Edward as he and Charles Rawdon were intimate from children, except they have fallen out lately: ſo much for Colonel Rawdon's character, for as to himſelf I never had the honour of ſeeing, which I believe I told you before: but one thing more my dear, and then for an end to this ſubject; I beg you never to mention my name to the Colonel, nor let him know you have any acquaintance

with

with me. I am interrupted, there-adieu for the preſent.

MISS MOUNTFORD, in continuation.

WELL, my dear, I left off rather abruptly, for I was called into the ſhop, were I found a foot-man, who told me that Lady Betty Modely and her ſiſter wanted to ſee ſome caps, but deſired I would come with them myſelf. You may be ſure my dear Lucy the ſound of their names alarmed me, but as I knew it was utterly impoſſible to

avoid

avoid ſeeing them, I muſtered up all my reſolution, and putting my hat as much over my face as poſſible, I went to their lodgings. After waiting ſome time, a footman came and conducted me into the parlour, where ſat Lady Betty and Lady Lucy, with another lady and gentleman. When the ſervant told her here was the milliner, ſhe turned and aſked me if I had brought any caps: when I opened the box, lord bleſs me! cried ſhe, they are not mourning caps; did not the ſervant inform you I wanted a ſuit of mourning? Indeed my Lady he did not, ſaid I; ah! Lord, cried ſhe, perhaps I did not tell him what

caps

caps I wanted, for (turning to the lady) I hate the thoughts of going into mourning; then turning to me, do ſend me ſome others: then as if recollecting herſelf, I think Lucy, (turning to her ſiſter) we had better go to Miſs Mountford's, and then we can pleaſe ourſelves; with all my heart, ſaid her ſiſter: about an hour after I got home they came, and after tumbling over two or three ſets of linen, they each of them choſe one, at the ſame time telling me, they ſhould be there again the latter end of the year, and then they ſhould be better cuſtomers; but they intended ſetting off the next morning for town. They

then went away, and I have the pleaſure to inform you, they ſeemed not to have the leaſt recollection of me or my ſiſter, which I aſſure you pleaſed us exceedingly. Is it not ſurpriſing my dear there ſhould be ſo great a change in us that they ſhould not know us? it muſt be the alteration in our dreſs, as that is the only reaſon I can give for it. I enquired of a perſon who knew them, who they were in mourning for; ſhe ſaid it was for their uncle, who was lately dead, and has left them a very large fortune at their own diſpoſal. This was all I wanted to know, as I knew the reſt, and now, my dear, we may ſet our-

ſelves

ſelves quite at eaſe, as *they* did not know us, I think no one elſe will; and now my dear I think it high time to put an end to this long epiſtle.

Adieu my dear friend and let me hear from you ſoon.

C. BALTIMORE.

LET-

LETTER XXII.

MISS CHAMBERS

TO

MISS MOUNTFORT.

I Am ſet down to write to you my dear Kitty, to try if I can ſhake off a ſplenetic fit which had got hold of me. Do you know, my dear, I quarrel with every body that comes in my way, and as for my poor maid, I believes ſhe thinks me mad, for nothing ſhe does now is right, and what is the moſt provoking, do you know, they only laugh at me? O! a letter from my dear Kitty, the reading of that will ſet me to

rights

rights. Adieu till I have peruſed the dear contents; and ſo my dear ſagacious Kitty will have it I am in love; indeed my dear you are very much miſtaken, as well as all my friends here; upon my word you give Colonel Rawdon a fine character, and I hope he deſerves it; he ſent me a note the other day with his compliments, that he hoped we were well, was afraid he ſhould not have the pleaſure of ſeeing us again, as his father had ſent for him to England; ſo you ſee my dear was I ever ſo inclined to enquire about Edward I could not: now, my dear, don't you think it a little odd, that a man who ſince

he became acquainted here, has ſcarce paſſed a day without ſeeing us, ſhould go to England without calling to bid us adieu. Sure I liked Colonel Rawdon better than any perſon I had ever ſeen; but as to love my dear I never thought of, but what the meaning of it is I know not; though every body thought he was in love with me, but you ſee how miſtaken people are ſometimes; ſo there is an end of this ſubject. I am very glad the Lady Modelys did not find you out, as when my dear friends are diſcovered I hope it wont be by ſuch flirts as thoſe: as to news, my dear, I have none here of any ſort, there-

fore

fore my letters cannot be diverting. Heigh oh! I wiſh I was in England again, with all my heart: the dinner bell rings, ſo muſt conclude with love to my dear Harriet.

Your's as uſual,

L. CHAMBERS.

P. S. Pray write ſoon.

LETTER XXIII.

COLONEL RAWDON,

TO

EDWARD BALTIMORE.

Rawdon-Place.

MY dear friend may ſee by this that I am arrived ſafe here. My father received me with open arms, as likewiſe did my ſiſter Charlotte, who chooſes to reſide with him preferable to either of her ſiſters. You know Charles, I was always fond of this dear ſaucy ſiſter of mine, and once I was in hopes, not knowing then of your attachment to your

fair

fair couſin, of having the happineſs of adding the title of brother to that of friend through her means, provided you liked each other; but all thoſe hopes are over, therefore I muſt look out for a man, if not altogether as amiable, as near as poſible to your worſhip, as ſhe has often declared ſhe ſhould prefer a man of her brother's chooſing to any other. I always thought her a fine girl, but three years have made a vaſt improvement in her perſon as well as underſtanding; ſo much for my ſiſter Charlotte: let me ſee where did I leave off? O, with telling you how glad my father and ſiſter were to ſee me. After a few

queſtions paſſed on all ſides, my father called for ſupper, ſaying, he ſuppoſed I ſhould be glad to go to bed early. Nothing paſſed after this material, and about eleven we retired to our apartment; but ſleep had fled my eyes, and whenever I cloſed them for a moment Lucy Chambers appeared before them. About three o'clock I got a little ſleep, but was awake again at ſeven, and finding the drowſy god not inclined to viſit me again, I aroſe, and dreſſing myſelf, not chooſing to diſturb my ſervant, as perhaps he is not love-ſick like his maſter, I ſauntered into the garden, where the firſt perſon I ſaw was Charlotte.

After

After the uſual good morning, and how do ye, and ſo forth, ſhe began by aſking me, if I had brought my heart back to England with me. The little devil put the queſtion ſo ſuddenly to me, that although I am not apt to do ſuch woomaniſh tricks, I could not help changing countenance. Ah! brother, brother, (continued ſhe, without giving me time to reply) I ſee your heart is not your own; well, never mind it, *man*; I here thought it high time to interrupt her: for God's ſake Charlotte, (cried I) don't run on ſo faſt: who told you I was in love, child? but pray if you can be ſerious for a moment, let me know what my

father's intentions are concerning me: why, my dear Charles, to put you out of your ſuſpence, (replied the little gipſy) his intentions are to preſent you with a wife, and ſuch a one as *you*, like a prudent ſon, will accept of: O my dear Charlotte, catching hold of her hands, do tell me who ſhe is, and what's her name; why brother, it is no other than Lady Maria Melcombe, youngeſt daughter of the Earl of Lovel; and pray, ſiſter, what ſort of a woman is ſhe, as I don't remember ever to have ſeen her? No, what not remember the lady you danced with at Lady B——'s aſſembly, juſt before you left England.

gland. God bleſs my heart, was that Lady Maria? the very ſame, ſaid ſhe; and I think, my dear brother, joking apart, ſhe is the laſt woman that you would chooſe for a wife, as ſhe is conceited and proud to a degree. You ſay very right my dear, for Lady Maria ſhall never be the wife of your brother Charles: well, you know beſt, but I know not what you will do, as my father ſeems bent upon the match, continued ſhe, — it was but yeſterday morning I took the liberty of expoſtulating with him, and told him I did not think you would ever think or conſent to take ſuch an ideot for a wife. His anſwer was,

I was a fool; what ſignified the woman being an ideot, as you are pleaſed to call her; though I believe you are the firſt, if ſhe brings her huſband a clear eight hundred a year, and twenty thouſand pounds ready money; and I deſire miſs you don't put any of your fooliſh notions into your brother's head. I only repeat this converſation, that you may know what you have to expect from our father: I thanked her for her intelligence, but a ſervant juſt then coming to acquaint us that breakfaſt was ready, put an end to our converſation, and Charlotte had only time to deſire I would take no notice of what had

paſſed, which I aſſured her I would not. We then entered the breakfaſt parlour, where we found my father with two gentlemen; therefore there was no opportunity for any particular diſcourſe. When our repaſt was finiſhed my father and his companions went to take a ride. I excuſed myſelf by ſaying I had letters to write: my ſiſter went out to pay ſome viſits, and I to my chambers, where I have been ſcribling to your worſhip ever ſince; hark! there is my ſiſter returned from her viſit, ſhe taps at my door, and ſays ſhe ſuppoſes I am writing to ſome favourite miſtreſs. You are welcome to come in (ſaid I) and

I was a fool; what ſignified the woman being an ideot, as you are pleaſed to call her; though I believe you are the firſt, if ſhe brings her huſband a clear eight hundred a year, and twenty thouſand pounds ready money; and I deſire miſs you don't put any of your fooliſh notions into your brother's head. I only repeat this converſation, that you may know what you have to expect from our father: I thanked her for her intelligence, but a ſervant juſt then coming to acquaint us that breakfaſt was ready, put an end to our converſation, and Charlotte had only time to deſire I would take no notice of what had

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ſee who I am writing to; O, to Mr. Baltimore; well pray give my compliments to him, and tell him; — ſtop my dear ſiſter and take my pen and finiſh my letter, there that's a good girl, take it.

MISS RAWDON, in Continuation.

MY brother, Sir, has forced the pen into my hand, and now if I was not the beſt ſiſter in the world, might I diſcover all his ſecrets; for I am ſure he muſt have been talking about his favourite miſtreſs, to have been writing ſo long, for do you know, Sir, that I with half a dozen

dozen of my female friends, have been ſettling the whole etiquette of our dreſs for the ſummer: well indeed, brother, I can ſay no more, except I tell your friend Edward how rejoiced I am to ſee you; but perhaps this may make you vain, therefore, Sir, I will conclude with begging you to preſent my reſpects to Sir Edward and Lady Baltimore.

Your's,

L. RAWDON.

LETTER XXIV.

MISS RAWDON TO MISS MILFORD.

I Am afraid my dear Emily will chide her Charlotte for not writing an anſwer to her ſooner. But indeed my dear I have been ſo taken up with receiving and paying viſits ſince I have been here, that it has been out of my power, and now my dear I will tell you a piece of welcome news. My dear brother Charles is returned to England, you have never ſeen him, though you have often heard me ſpeak of him. I ſhall

I ſhall ſay nothing about him as you will ſoon ſee him yourſelf, only adviſe you as a friend, to have Frederic Mountague by your ſide whenever you ſee Charles Rawdon; I'll leave you to interpret this as you think proper. You aſk me what could induce me to leave London at this time of the year; one reaſon was that I was loath to let my father come here alone; as he has not been at this place ſince my dear mama's death; another was, that I knew my dear brother would come here immediately on his arrival in England, and another weightier than all the reſt was, to get rid of a troubleſome lover, for ſuch Lord

Carleton

Carleton ever was, and ever will be to me; and what can make my ſiſter Loveit ſo warmly eſpouſe the cauſe of ſo profligate a man as his lordſhip: I can't imagine as you know, my dear, all the world are acquainted with his character. My father don't like him any more than I, though he ſays, if I could like the man he ſhould have no objection, as he is rich; but as I do not, he will never perſuade me. I am interrupted, therefore muſt bid you adieu.

Your's,

C. RAWDON.

LET-

LETTER XXV.

LORD CARLETON TO COLONEL SEDLEY.

Dear Sedley,

I Write becauſe I am almoſt mad. Oh! Sedley, did you ever think your friend Carleton would be ſeriouſly in love? Yes, I was, and I am afraid am ſtill; but I am ſlighted, yes, I repeat it again, I am ſlighted; but the little gipſy had beſt take care, for I will have her in ſpight of men and devils: well, now I have vented my ſpleen a little, I will inform you who and what ſhe is; why, you

muſt

muſt know ſhe is youngeſt daughter to Lord Rawdon; ſhe has two ſiſters but they are both married, the one juſt like herſelf, to Mr. Barren; the other, who is my friend, to Lord Loveit; I ſay ſhe is my friend, but ſuppoſe if ſhe knew the real truth of my intentions, ſhe would ceaſe to be ſo; at preſent the little devil is out of town, but is expected again ſoon, ſo her ſiſter tells me, but my dear child ſhan't ſtay long here; for the moment ſhe arrives, if poſſible, I ſhall hoiſt her off to my ſeat in Wales, and there I ſhall try to bring down her little ſtubborn ſpirit; what makes me in a greater hurry is, that her brother Charles Rawdon is

come,

come, and as he is an intimate of young Baltimore, I ſuppoſe he will take care to inform him what ſort of a fellow I am, therefore it behoves me to be quick in my motions. As to Lady Charlotte I have let her alone ſome time, as I found her a poor married, inoffenſive, conceited being. I muſt conclude in haſte.

Your's,

CARLETON.

LET-

LETTER XXVI.

COLONEL SEDLEY TO LORD CARLETON.

Dear George,

I Diſpatch this by a ſpecial meſſenger to prevent, as I hope it is not too late, the vile ſcheme you have formed of carrying off Miſs Rawdon. For God's ſake, George, are you out of your ſenſes; you certainly are: a young lady with her fortune, and ſuch powerful friends! I muſt be in a dream, but your letter here convinces me I am not. You ſay, you love Miſs Rawdon to madneſs:

madneſs: no, no, George, you have no more love for her than I have; for believe me, the man who ſincerely loves a woman, will never offer any rudeneſs. If ſhe had been placed in an obſcure ſituation, then indeed you might have tried her; though then if you had found her thoroughly virtuous, you would have been a villain to have rendered her otherwiſe; yes, I again repeat it, a villain: you are very ſenſible that I am as fond of the ſex as you or any other man; yet I can ſafely ſay that I never attempted to draw any girl from her friends; no, George, I have too much reſpect for virtue to abuſe it, where it is to be found.

found. I have no more to ſay than to deſire yo will immediately give up the horrid ſcheme of carrying off Miſs Rawdon, or renounce the eſteem of your hitherto ſincere friend.

SEDLEY.

LETTER XXVII.

EDWARD BALTIMORE TO COLONEL RAWDON.

Weſtbury-Park.

YOU ſee by the date of this, Charles, that we are got into the odious

odious country, as Lady Charlotte calls it; but before I proceed with my own affairs, let me talk a little about yours. I received your's with Miſs Rawdon's agreeable Poſtſcript, for which I beg my reſpects and thanks, for I need not tell you, my friend, how concerned I am to hear that you are like to have a woman propoſed to you that you can't like; but take courage, man, perhaps as you ſaid in one of your letters, you may like the lady; or perhaps your father may relent, when he finds your affections are pre-engaged. By this time I ſuppoſe you are in London, where I propoſe directing this, and beg to know how you go

on

on immediately. Well now, I will tell you how I go on here: Lady Charlotte was at length prevailed on, partly by perſuaſions and partly by force, to come into the country, and my father ſo ſtrenuouſly begged of me to accompany her; I was obliged to comply. My Lady is diſcontented, my father unhappy; for my part you know Charles, I am not very happy — therefore you muſt not expect agreeable letters from me — but I hope you will write often and tell me all the news you can. — Adieu!

P. S.

P. S. I forgot to tell you we ſaw nothing of Lord Carleton, for ſome time before we left town.

Your's

ED. BALTIMORE.

LETTER XXVIII.

LORD CARLETON TO COLONEL SEDLEY.

HA! ha! ha! if I can forbear laughing at the wretched ſcrawl that now lays before me; is it poſſible that this comes from him that uſed to be called the gay Jack Sed-

ley? Why, man, if you were not a ſoldier, I ſhould think you was going to turn parſon; for God's ſake come among us again, Jack, for your wiſe brother and no leſs wiſe ſiſter-in-law have almoſt ſpoiled you for the ſet you uſed to belong to; but come away, man, we will rouſe up your ſpirits again, never fear. As to how I go on, or what I am doing here, I ſhall not inform you till I ſee whether you have got a parſon's gown and band, or a ſcarlet coat and ſmart cockade; ſo adieu!

Your's according as I find you.

G. CARLETON.

LETTER XXIX.

COLONEL RAWDON

TO

EDWARD BALTIMORE, ESQ.

WELL, Edward, I am once more got to London, and am not a little angry to find you have juſt quitted it: but however that can't be helped. The morning after that in which my father, ſiſter, and ſelf, arrived in town; my father told me that he was going to pay a viſit to the Earl Lovel, and deſired me to accompany him, which I

accordingly did, and was received by the Earl and Counteſs with ſeeming cordiality. My father aſked after their daughter; the Earl ſaid ſhe was very well, and they expected her home every moment: then turning to me, you have almoſt forgot Maria, Sir, I ſuppoſe? I bowed; but the door opening prevented me from making any reply; and in came the Lady herſelf; ſhe made a ſlight curteſy, then flinging herſelf into a chair, proteſted ſhe was tired to death. The Counteſs aſked her, if ſhe had walked far! no, not a great way, anſwered ſhe. Her father then roſe, and taking her young Ladyſhip by the hand, preſented

ſented her to me, ſaying at the ſame time, "this is Lord Rawdon's ſon, my dear." I bowed, kiſſed her hand, and believe looked very aukward. After we had reſumed our ſeats, a converſation was begun by the old folks; for neither Lady Maria or I bore any ſhare in it: more company coming in, put an end to their converſation, and our, to me, tedious viſit, and I fancy her Ladyſhip thought it ſo as well as me; but the Earl and Counteſs both preſſed me to come often; In ſhort, Edward, I paid her Ladyſhip three more viſits, and in every one found her the ſame proud conceited flirt I always thought her. My

father aſked me no queſtions till this morning at breakfaſt; he ſaid, well, Charles, what think you of Lady Maria Melcombe for a wife? My opinion is Sir, returned I, with a firmneſs which I did not think I could have aſſumed, (as you know Edward, with all my boldneſs, I always had great reſpect for fathers and mothers) my opinion, Sir, continued I, is, that Lady Maria is the laſt woman I ſhould chooſe for a wife. How, Sir, cried my father, with a fierce tone, the laſt woman you ſhould chooſe for a wife! What do you mean? I am ſorry, Sir, to diſpute your will, and believe I may venture to ſay it it the firſt time; but,

but, Sir, it is utterly impoſſible for me ever to marry Lady Maria. He got up, and taking his hat and cane, was going out, but turning back juſt as he got to the door, and ſhaking his cane at me, ſaid theſe words: "Take care, Charles, take care; you had beſt conſent to take her for a wife, or by G—d I will cut you off with a ſhilling. I give you till tomorrow to connſider of it; but have a care how you decide." With this he quitted the room. Poor Charlotte then gave a looſe to her tears, and I did all in my power to comfort her. She dreads my father's reſentment, ſo do I; but let what will be the conſequence, I

never will make Maria Melcombe mine: therefore adieu, my dear friend. You ſhall hear from me as ſoon as this great affair is decided.

Your's, as uſual,

C. RAWDON.

LETTER XXX.

THE HON. MISS RAWDON

TO

MISS MILFORD.

I Have juſt taken up my pen, my dear Henny, to eaſe my heart. O, my dear, my father and brother have quarrelled, — I need only tell you, that Charles won't conſent to marry Lady Maria, and you may gueſs the reſt. I am quite ſick at heart, and what is worſe, they will force me to a maſquerade that is to be to night. Lady Loveit called

this morning, and though I told her all that paſſed between my father and brother, this giddy ſiſter of mine inſiſted upon it that I ſhould go with her. My father juſt then coming in, ſhe told him that I was averſe to going; he turned to me, and with a ſtern look, bid me get a dreſs and go, not ſtay at home to make my brother more undutiful than he was. My ſpirits were already low, and this unkind ſpeech affected me ſo much, that I burſt into tears: he deſired me to ceaſe wimpering, and go with my ſiſter, for it would be of no uſe to ſtay at home, as I ſhould not ſee my brother till he had agreed to perform his

his duty; then I am afraid it will be long enough; therefore I put on my hat, and followed my ſiſter; and now muſt bid you adieu, to prepare for this ugly maſquerade; for ſomething tells me that I ſhall have reaſon to call it ſo.

Adieu, my dear friend,

C. RAWDON.

LETTER XXXI.

MISS MOUNTFORT

TO

MISS CHAMBERS.

I Have taken up my pen, my dear friend, to inform you that my ſiſter and ſelf received your welcome packet yeſterday; and it made us very happy to hear you talk of being in England ſoon, as I hope then my dear, Miſs Chambers will honour Bath with her preſence, as by that time it will be pretty full; juſt now it is very dull, as there is hardly any-

body,

body, except a few invalids, who are come for the recovery of their health. My dear friend I hope will excuſe my making this ſhort, as I really have no ſubject to write on: My ſiſter deſires her love, and will write ſoon.

I remain your's, ſincerely,

H. MOUNTFORT.

LETTER XXXII.

COLONEL RAWDON

TO

EDWARD BALTIMORE, ESQ.

WE are all here in the utmoſt confuſion, my father and ſiſter Loveit forced my dear ſiſter Charlotte, very much againſt her inclination, to a maſquerade laſt night. Lady Loveit ſays, ſhe never ſtirred from her ſide the whole evening, but at going, a gentleman, whom ſhe thought to be Lord Loveit, handed her to her chair. When ſhe

ſhe came home, ſhe enquired if Charlotte was there: the ſervants ſaid no. My Lord returning a few minutes afterward, his lady aſked him if he had ſeen Charlotte home to her father's houſe; no, cried he, I have ſeen nothing of her. My ſiſter, very much alarmed, ſent a ſervant, to know whether ſhe was at her father's, — the anſwer was no. My father forgetting all his reſentment, ſent for me, and deſired I would immediately go in ſearch of my ſiſter; I did, but could get no tidings of the dear girl: I enquired of Lord and Lady Loveit, if they could give a gueſs who had trapanned her away. Their ſuſpicions,

as well as my father's, ſeem to light on Lord Carleton, I think I have heard you mention him; and what is more, he is not in town, though Lady Loveit ſays, ſhe is ſure he was at the vile maſquerade. I ſhall ſet off directly for his ſeat in Wales, as if he has the dear creature, that will be the moſt likely place to find her; I can ſay no more, as the chaiſe is at the door.

I am your's, as uſual,

C. RAWDON.

LET.

LETTER XXXIII.

EDWARD BALTIMORE, ESQ.

TO

COLONEL RAWDON.

Westbury-Park.

Dear Charles,

I Send this with all speed, to beg you would immediately send for Dr. P——, and beg him to set off directly for this place, as my poor father is violently attacked with the gout in his stomach, and I am alarmed for his life. Pray, my dear

friend,

friend, desire Dr. P —— not to delay a moment, but come post, and I will satisfy him for whatever expence he may be at. I dispatch this by my own servant; he is ready, therefore adieu! But for God's sake, my dear Charles, urge the Doctor to be quick.

Adieu, pray be speedy.

Your's,

E. BALTIMORE.

P. S. My Lady really seems to be alarmed.

LETTER XXXIV.

THOMAS BROWN

TO

EDWARD BALTIMORE, ESQ.

Honoured Sir,

ACCORDING to your orders, as ſoon as I arrived here, I went to Lord Rawdon's houſe, but found the family all in confuſion, as Miſs Rawdon had been carried off by nobody knows who; and Colonel

Colonel Rawdon, the ſervants told me, Sir, was gone in purſuit of his ſiſter. They told me if I choſe, they would let his Lordſhip know I was there; they did, and my Lord ſent for me, I told him how ill my maſter was, and that I had a letter for his ſon; he aſked if he might ſee it: I ventured to tell him yes, and the moment his Lordſhip had read it, he called for his ſervant, and ſent for Dr. P——, who is going to ſet off directly, and will give your honour this. My Lord deſires his compliments, is very ſorry, my dear maſter is ſo ill, but God ſend he may be better; I ſhall

ſet

ſet off to-morrow night for the park.

I am, Sir,

With due reſpect,

Your moſt dutiful ſervant,

T. Brown.

LET-

LETTER XXXV.

MISS CHAMBERS

TO

MISS H. MOUNTFORT.

Calais, July 5th.

I Received my dear Harriot's letter, juſt before I left Paris, and did not intend anſwering it till I got to England. But when we arrived here, my Lord called on a Mr. Douglas, a particular friend of his, who inſiſted on our paſſing a week or two with them. His wife is a very agreeable lady,

lady, as likewiſe is their daughter; they have a ſon, but I have not ſeen him yet, as he is on a viſit: ſo much for the Douglas family. My dear Harriot may be ſure, when I arrive in England, I ſhall immediately viſit Bath, as I long to ſee my dear friends. Miſs Dauglas is juſt come to tell me tea is ready, therefore muſt conclude myſelf, my dear Harriot and Kitty's ſincere friend,

LOUISA CHAMBERS.

LETTER XXXVI.

THE HON. MISS RAWDON TO MISS MILFORD.

Groſvenor-Square,

THANK God, my dear Emily, I am at length permitted to write to you; but I have ſuch an hiſtory to relate, that I hardly know where to begin: I think I told you in my laſt, I was going to a maſquerade; I was very loth, as I had a ſort of preſentiment that I ſhould repent it. Soon after we entered the room, I ob-

I obſerved a gentleman, in a pink domino, who followed me wherever I went; but as he never ſpoke, I thought nothing of it: about twelve o'clock I miſſed him; Lord Loveit was in a blue domino, trimmed with white; Lady Loveit, and ſelf, were in the characters of nuns. I ſhall paſs over all the nonſenſe that occurred during our ſtay; but at one o'clock, I begged my lady to quit the room, which ſhe at length conſented to; but when I turned round, was ſurprized to find Lord Loveit not there. I eagerly aſked my ſiſter where he was; he is only gone to ſpeak to Lord Harly, replied ſhe; his Lordſhip, as we

thought, that moment came up, and cried in a haſty manner, Miſs Rawdon, are you not ready to go? O, yes; cried I, I have been ready this hour: ſeizing my hand, he turned to my Lady, ſaying, Sir Charles will take care of you, my dear, meaning one of the gentlemen that was with us. He hurried along at ſuch a rate, that I ſoon loſt ſight of my company, which a little alarmed me; and turning ſhort about, my Lord, cried I, you ſhall unmaſk before I get into my chair; pooh! pooh! ſaid he, in a laughing tone, which I have ſince found was to diſguiſe his voice, what are you afraid of, child? juſt as I

was

was going to reply, two gentlemen came up, and rather rudely ſeizing my other hand, ſaid, dear madam, ſhew us that lovely face before you quit the room. I tried to diſengage myſelf, but found it impoſſible; my Lord at laſt ſaid, pray gentlemen, let the lady go. "Lord Loveit, by my ſoul, cried one of them, in a whiſper, and I ſuppoſe this is his wife;" then "by jingo, cried the other, we will ſee her face:" You, my dear Emily, may eaſily gueſs how much this talk diſconcerted me, (though I have ſince found it to be all a trick) at length we got to the place, where the chairs were, and theſe men were ſo troubleſome,

that I was glad to get into the firſt chair that was opened for me, not doubting but it was my own. As ſoon as I was ſeated, I began to think it ſtrange, that Lord Loveit did not more peremptorily inſiſt on the gentlemen's leaving me; and weighing all circumſtances together, I began to be frightened, and haſtily putting down the window of the chair, found myſelf in the middle of a large ſquare. I knew it was impoſſible for it to be Groſvenor-Square, though to be ſure they had carried me with amazing rapidity. I was juſt going to call to the ſervants, when they ſtopped: I was very much ſurprized, when a man coming

coming up to the ſide of my chair, opened it, and ſeizing me in his arms, rather flew than ran with me, the length of two or three yards, then put me into a chaiſe that was waiting. I gave a violent ſcream, but he jumping in, ſtopped my mouth in an inſtant; think, my dear Emily, what a condition I muſt be in, when I had a little recovered myſelf, I turned to my companion, and deſired to know by whoſe orders he had taken me away in ſuch a vile manner, from my friends; he replied, that at preſent he was not at liberty to ſay; but that I might aſſure myſelf that no harm was intended me, and that I was

going to a perſon that adored me. I ſaid no more, as I thought it was to little purpoſe, as I make no doubt he was bribed, to commit the outrage he did: by this time it was broad daylight, and a ſweet morning it was; if I had been in any other ſituation I ſhould have enjoyed it much, but the thoughts of the anxiety my friends would undergo, and likewiſe of my own danger, ſo oppreſſed my ſpirits I could hardly keep myſelf from fainting, but by the help of my ſalts recovered myſelf. I ſeveral times attempted to open the door, but was always ſtopped by my companion, who told me, he ſhould be ſorry to uſe force

to

to detain me in the chaiſe, as he had particular orders to the contrary; but, if I was ſo reſolute, he muſt have recourſe to violence, as if he let me eſcape, his life was to pay for it: about eleven o'clock the chaiſe ſtopped at a ſmall houſe in the road. My companion got out, and handed me into the houſe, where breakfaſt was ready: they preſſed me very much to drink ſome tea, and eat ſome toaſt; I drank two cups of tea, but could eat nothing. I enquired of the man, if that was the houſe I was to ſtay in, he ſaid, no; and if I choſe to change my dreſs, he would ſend a woman

to aſſiſt me: I told him, if I muſt travel any farther, I certainly would; for you muſt think, my dear, I cut an odd figure, as I was in my maſquerade dreſs. A woman appearing, conducted me to a room up ſtairs, where I found two or three riding habits; I choſe a white one, being the plaineſt I could find. While I was putting it on, I tried all I could to tempt the woman, but all in vain; I ſaid, if ſhe would convey a letter to my friends, ſhe ſhould have whatever ſum ſhe choſe to name: her anſwer was, no; ſhe knew there was no harm intended me, therefore ſhe would not betray

tray her truſt. As I found it impoſſible to bring her to my intereſt, and being by this time equipped, I went down ſtairs, when the man aſked me, whether I was ready to go? I ſaid, it was juſt as he pleaſed. He took my hand to lead me to the chaiſe, but, good God! what was my aſtoniſhment, when I got to the door, to behold Lord Carleton. Surprize, indignation, and horror, ſo overpowered me, that I ſuffered him to lift me into the chaiſe, and ſeat himſelf by my ſide, before I had power to ſpeak; ſo my Lord, cried I at laſt, it is you that have taken all this trouble, I find;

upon my word, you have put yourſelf to an amazing deal, and pray what recompence does your Lordſhip intend to make my friends and ſelf? I ſpoke this in ſuch an ironical manner, that he really looked fooliſh; but when he had recovered himſelf, he began a long ſpeech, which you may eaſily gueſs the purport of, how much he loved me, and ſo forth, which I ſtopped him ſhort in. Well, my dear, to make ſhort of my ſtory, we went on in this manner, till evening, when we ſtopped at a large farmhouſe, where ſupper was ready. At firſt I refuſed to eat any, till finding

finding myſelf quite faint with hunger, I took a bit of a chick, and drank a glaſs of water, which I pumped myſelf: after ſupper my Lord took his leave, telling me, he made no doubt, I was very much fatigued, and wanted reſt; ſo ſaying, he wiſhed me a good night, and quitted the room. A woman came in, and conducted me to my chamber; ſhe aſked me, if ſhe ſhould aſſiſt me to undreſs; I told her no, for I ſhould not go to bed at all: ſhe then left me, and locked the door after her; and recommending myſelf to the protection of Providence, I flung myſelf on the bed to try to get a little reſt. I

muſt refer the reſt of my ſtory, my dear Emily, till another opportunity, as I am ſo ſleepy, and my fingers ſo crampt, I cannot go on.

Adieu, my dear Emily,

Your's as uſual,

C. RAWDON.

LETTER XXXVII.

LORD CARLETON*

TO

COLONEL SEDLEY.

Bath,

WELL, Sedley, what think you of me now? don't you think I have made myſelf a pretty fool? Death! to have ſuch a fine girl in my power, and to part with her ſo tamely! Why, even the ſober Jack

* Here Lord Carleton gives the ſame account as Miſs Rawdon gave, in her laſt letter to her friend.

Sedley will call me a confounded blockhead; but if it had not been for your worſhip's threats, about the devil knows what, I ſhould not have made ſuch a puppy of myſelf; but by jingo, as my friend, Tom Martin, ſays, you ſhall ſmart for it, you ſhall have a true and full particular account of all my proceedings, you may be ſure, Jack: I went to bed, glad to reſt my wearied bones, but whether my fair Penſeroſa did, I can't pretend to ſay, for I am ſure the next morning ſhe looked as if ſhe had had none for a month. I offered to take her hand, when ſhe came down to breakfaſt, but the little devil gave me ſuch a puſh, that my tender

tender frame could hardly ſupport itſelf. I tried to draw her into converſation, but the little gipſy turned all I ſaid into ridicule, that at laſt I thought beſt to hold my tongue, and let her have her own way, for the preſent; however, as ſoon as breakfaſt was over, ſhe went up ſtairs to her own apartment, and was but juſt gone, when my ſervant entering, told me a gentleman inſiſted on ſeeing me; before I had time to reply, Mr. Rawdon entered the room, and walking up to me, cried, in a fierce tone, where is my ſiſter, my Lord? your ſiſter, Sir, I don't know what you mean; don't you, Sir? cried he, almoſt choaked

with

with paſſion; then I will make you, defend yourſelf, (drawing his ſword) ſtop, Sir, ſaid I, don't be ſo warm; defend yourſelf, repeated he, and don't add cowardice to your other villainy. This ſpeech, Jack, had the deſired effect of my ſword, which lay on the window ſeat, was unſheathed in a moment; but he, boiling with paſſion, made ſuch a furious paſs at me, that before I had time to defend myſelf, the point of his ſword was burried in the fleſhy part of my right arm; I was juſt going to return it, when Mr. Conſcience ſtarted up, and I cried, no, I will not murder the brother of the woman I adore; cool

yourſelf,

yourſelf, Sir, and hear what I have to ſay; you ſiſter is ſafe, and will be here preſently, I believe ſhe will have no reaſon to complain, except indeed, my depriving her of the converſation of her friends; you will do better to compoſe yourſelf, and ſee your ſiſter ſafe home, and then, Sir, I ſhall be ready to give you any ſatisfaction you may require. I ſhould never have committed, continued I, the raſh action I did, if I had not loved your ſiſter to diſtraction: at that inſtant the door opened, and in came the dear girl herſelf,—ſhe flew to Mr. Rawdon, exclaiming, O, my brother! ſunk into his arms almoſt lifeleſs;

he

he embraced her tenderly, and when ſhe recovered herſelf, he aſked her, if ſhe was ready to depart; ſhe cried, with ſome emotion, O, yes: her brother then turned to me, ſaying, well, my Lord, I will take your advice, and bowing, was going, but I ſpringing acroſs the room, exclaimed, for Heaven's ſake, madam! ſay, you forgive me, before you go; ſhe gave me her hand, which I kiſſed, and ſhe hurried out of the room, with tears in her eyes. They got into the chaiſe, and I returned to the room they had left, determined to make no reflections, ordered my chaiſe, and whirled to town in an inſtant. I muſt defer the reſt till

tomorrow, Jack, as I really can't go on; therefore adieu!

Your's,

G. CARLETON.

LET-

LETTER XXXVIII.

LORD CARLETON, in continuation.

WELL, Jack, to proceed, the morning after my arrival in town, I received the following letter, which I will here tranſcribe for your peruſal.

TO THE

RIGHT HON. LORD CARLETON.

My Lord,

AS my ſiſter, is willing to forgive the trouble you have given her, I am ready to do the ſame, only ſhe begs your Lordſhip will never attempt to ſee or ſpeak to her more. For my own part, I am ſatisfied, if your Lordſhip is. I hope you will remember my ſiſter's deſire, as the ſight of your Lordſhip will very much alarm her.

I remain,

Your Lordſhip's obedint ſervant,

C. RAWDON.

Well,

Well, Sedley, I will ſuppoſe by this time you have read the Colonel's letter, and I, like a good boy, quitted London immediately, and came to this place, where, if you have any charity, your worſhip will join me, for here is no company, and it is confounded dull; but hark, Sedley, don't attempt to condemn my conduct, for remember I have done ſchooling.

Your's ſincerely,

G. CARLETON.

P. S. Let me know directly, whether you come or not; for, if you don't, I ſhan't ſtay here. — Adieu!

LETTER XXXIX.

EDWARD BALTIMORE, ESQ.

TO

COLONEL RAWDON.

I Need not tell my dear Charles, how happy I am to hear of the aimable Miſs Rawdon's ſafe return, and muſt own with you, that upon the whole his Lordſhip has acted pretty well, conſidering the vile outrage he dared to commit; as to your obliging enquiries after my father,

father, I am ſorry to ſay, he is very poorly, though thank God, the gout is got out of his ſtomach into his right leg; but the doctor ſeems to fear a relapſe. My father ſends for me! O, my God, ſpare his life! but my heart forbodes me ſadly.

Adieu, my dear friend,

ED. BALTIMORE.

LET-

LETTER XL.

COLONEL SEDLEY TO LORD CARLETON.

IN ſpite of your prohibition to the contrary, George, I ſhall take the liberty to tell you, how much I deſpiſe you for your late conduct, and am ſurprized how Mr. Rawdon could ſo tamely put up with ſuch an affront offered to his ſiſter, as I fancy if I had been in his place, I ſhould not have been ſo patient, but have been tempted to have given

your Lordſhip a good cooling in a horſe-pond. I make no doubt but this will raiſe your choler, but your good ſenſe, (for good ſenſe you do poſſeſs, George, if you knew how to put it to a right uſe) will tell you, that all, nay more than I have ſaid, your worſhip deſerves: as to coming to Bath, at preſent, I cannot; but if you are inclined to take a trip to this place, I will inſure you a good reception; and if you behave like a good boy, I may, perhaps, return with you to Bath, when the ſeaſon comes on. You muſt not expect to find much company, therefore, perhaps you may call Sedley-Park as dull as you did

Bath.

Bath. Hark! I hear the ſound of carriages, Sir Ralph Colbroke, his lady, ſon, and daughter; well, George, you know them, therefore if you have a mind to come, come; and I will make you welcome:

Adieu! your's,

J. SEDLY.

LETTER XLI.

COLONEL RAWDON

TO

EDWARD BALTIMORE, ESQ.

JOY, joy, to you my dear friend! yeſterday morning Lady Maria Melcombe eloped with a young enſign in the guards, Charlotte went this morning to pay a viſit to Lady Harly, where ſhe heard the news, and the dear girl hurried home, to inform her father and me of it. His Lordſhip was chagrined at firſt, but afterwards ſaid, he was very glad

glad that I had not declared myſelf her Ladyſhip's lover; and now, Edward, I have the pleaſure to inform you, that I am re-eſtabliſhed in my father's good graces, and may venture to ſay, that we three are as happy as this ſad world will let us — a-propos. Lord Carleton has ſet off for Bath, I ſuppoſe to hide his chagrin. Well he may, but now my friend, I will tell you ſomething, which has never yet eſcaped my breaſt. I think my ſiſter Charlotte loves Carleton, though ſhe uſes all in her power to conceal it; ſly, even from herſelf; if Carleton was not quite ſuch a reprobate, I ſhould have no objection to him, as

he certainly has a great many good qualities; but unleſs he was to reform, he is the laſt man I ſhould wiſh for a huſband, for Charlotte. Heigh, ho, I wonder if Miſs Chambers is come to England, I am growing dull, my dear friend, ſo will bid you adieu,

And remain your's, ſincerely,

C. RAWDON.

P. S. I hope Sir Edward is bett pray write when you have time.

LETTER XLII.

LORD CARLETON

TO

COLONEL SEDLEY.

UPON my honour, I take more rom Jack Sedly than I would from ny other man in the kingdom. ool me in a horſe-pond! did ever ny mortal hear the like? though I tend ſetting off for Sedly-Park -morrow morning, yet I could ot forbear taking up my pen, to ent my rage. I remember, when ou and I commenced friends, I eſired you would never ſpare me,

and faith, Jack, you never have: now, if I knew where to find a ſincere friend, I would renounce you this inſtant, but as true friends are hard to be found, I muſt keep to my old one. Adieu, till I ſee you, which will be on Monday.

Your's,

G. CARLETON.

LETTER XLIII.

EDWARD BALTIMORE, ESQ.

TO

COLONEL RAWDON.

Dear Charles,

I Need not ſay how rejoiced I am to hear that you are happy, would to God, I could ſay the ſame; but indeed I am afraid my poor father is dying; the gout is again in his ſtomach, and we are all in the utmoſt confuſion; his Lady has never ſtirred from his bed-ſide theſe two days. I have been up all laſt night,

and have juſt ſtole away while he is dozing, to write theſe few lines to you. Hark! I am called; adieu, my friend, till I can reſume my pen, but my forbodeing heart tells me, I ſhall reſume it with an aching one.

Adieu!

LETTER XLIV.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

MY God, Charles, what a ſcene have I juſt been witneſs to! my father is no more; I told you, yeſterday, I was called, and flew to his chamber, where I found him in agonies; when he was a little more compoſed, he deſired every body to quit the room but me, when he ſaid, (taking my hand) Edward,

I am dying; do not weep, my ſon, but hear what I have to ſay. " If ever you ſee your couſin Kitty Baltimore, tell her, that her wiſh is come to paſs, for I do ſincerely repent the uſage I gave her and her ſiſter. I have, my dear Ned, (in caſe you ever find them) left them five thouſand pounds each; my eſtate, which devolves to you, is eight thouſand a year, beſides ready money; only out of that you muſt pay twelve hundred, yearly, to Lady Baltimore. I have now, my ſon, nothing more to add, therefore adieu, and remember we muſt all die. Call my wife, that I may

take my laſt farewel!" I did ſo, but was almoſt incapable to utter a ſyllable. He embraced my Lady and me, then lifting up his hands and eyes to Heaven, cried, all is over, and expired without a groan. I hurried my Lady out of the room, and ſoon after left it myſelf, and retired to my own, to try to get a little reſt. As ſoon as I roſe, I went to my Lady, and perſuaded her to go to town immediately, which ſhe very readily conſented to. She ſeemed ſorry, but it is a kind of ſorrow which will ſoon wear off. When my father's funeral is over, I ſhall ſet off for town alſo, where I

hope to find you; but in the mean time beg you will write to me.

Adieu, my ever dear friend,

E. BALTIMORE.

LET-

LETTER XLV.

COLONEL RAWDON

TO

EDWARD BALTIMORE, ESQ.

I Have no occaſion to tell my friend, how ſorry I am for his loſs. We ſet off to-morrow morning for Rawdon-Place, where my father, ſiſter, and ſelf, beg you will join us: do, my dear Edward, oblige us with your company, as I long to ſee you; and Charlotte bids me tell

you, that ſhe will do all in her power to divert you.

Adieu, my dear friend,

And believe me to be,

Your's ſincerely,

C. RAWDON.

LET-

LETTER XLVI.

THE HON. LORD CARLETON

TO

THOMAS MARTIN, ESQ.

Sedly-Park, Aug. 25, 1773.

WELL, Martin, I have been here juſt one week, and am more than half ſick of this very ſober place already. So I told Sedly this morning, he ſhook his wiſe head, and ſaid, I was a ſad fellow; ah, Tom, I wiſh you and I were half as good as Jack Sedly, but cou-

rage,

rage, man, we ſhall mend in time. I had almoſt forgot to tell you a piece of news: Sir Edward Baltimore is dead; and I have been more than once tempted to go and throw myſelf at the feet of the fair widow, only, to tell you the truth, I am afraid to venture on her; ſo I believe, ſhall ſtay where I am. I fancy Sedly, and your humble ſervant, will ſet off for Bath in about a week, or fortnight, at fartheſt, where we ſhall be glad to meet your worſhip. Sedley calls, therefore adieu.

Your's,

G. CARLETON.

LET.

LETTER XLVII.

THE HON. MISS RAWDON

TO

MISS MILFORD.

Rawdon-Place.

WE arrived here laſt week, and I ſhould have wrote to my dear Emily ſooner, but have had a very bad cold, though am now much better. Sir Edward Baltimore came here, yeſterday; I was quite ſhocked, to ſee him, for he looks very pale and thin; he told us, that Lady Baltimore is gone to France, where

where ſhe intends to paſs the enſuing winter. I fancy we ſhall leave this place, the latter end of September, or early in November; as it grows very damp. Sir Edward talks of leaving us, ſoon, as he is going to Bath, where, I believe, we ſhall ſoon follow him, when we leave this place. I have no adventure to relate, my dear Emily, therefore muſt bid you adieu;

And remain your's ſincerely,

C. RAWDON.

LET-

LETTER XLVIII.

MISS CHAMBERS

TO

MISS MOUNTFORT.

London, Sept. 5th.

I Arrived here, laſt night, but would not defer writing a few lines, to let my dear friends know I was returned, as I long to hear from you. I am ſorry to add, that I ſhall not have the pleaſure of ſeeing you ſo ſoon as I intended, for Lord Mourland has ſome buſineſs to ſettle, which

which will detain him a month, or ſix weeks longer; therefore I beg, my dear Kitty, or Harriot, will write every poſt, that the time may appear as ſhort as poſſible, till the moment arrives for my embracing you both. I am ſo fatigued, I can add no more, but remain

Your ſincere friend,

L. CHAMBERS.

LETTER XLIX.

MISS MOUNTFORT

TO

MISS CHAMBERS.

I Leave my dear Lucy to gueſs the joy we feel at her return to England, but will wave all ceremony, and proceed to relate what has befel us ſince I laſt wrote. Bath, at preſent, is very full; a few days ago I was ſent for, to Lady Betty Modely;

Modely; the firſt perſon, I ſaw, when I entered the room, was Colonel Sedly, a former intimate acquaintance of my couſin Edward; and another gentleman, who I found was a Lord, but whoſe impertinent ſtare I did not at all like; and leſs ſo, when I heard him make the following exclamation, Good God! Sedly, what a ſweet creature! you may be ſure, my dear, I made as much haſte as poſſible, to ſerve Lady Betty with what ſhe wanted, as the two gentlemen never took their eyes off me the whole time I was there; the next morning, as my ſiſter and ſelf were in the ſhop, Colonel Sedly and his friend, Lord

Carleton,

Carleton, (for I find that is the impertinent Lord's name) came in to ſee ſome laced ruffles. From the time that Colonel Sedly entered, to the time he left the ſhop, he never took his eyes off my ſiſter; whilſt his Lordſhip talked ſuch a profuſion of nonſenſe to me, as made me quite ſick; and heartily glad was I, when Lady Betty Modely, and her ſiſter, entered, to put an end to his ſtupid talk. Many other ladies coming in, my Lord and the Colonel left the ſhop all of a ſudden. Lady Betty, exclaimed, look, look, Miſs Heartfree, there is that divine fellow, Sir Edward Baltimore: you may be ſure, this made me turn

my

my head, when I indeed, beheld my couſin Baltimore; luckily for me, (for my ſiſter was not there) they were too buſily employed, with looking at him, to ſee the confuſion I was in. By this time they had ordered what they wanted, when they left the ſhop; and now, my dear Lucy, what think you of this? Their calling him Sir Edward, and his mourning habit, leads me to think, his father is dead. Well, as all is, we muſt leave the reſt to the direction of Providence. I wonder if he will know me, as ſoon as I know him; though he is very much altered for the worſe. Adieu, my

dear

dear friend, for I am called, but will write again ſoon.

Your's,

K. MOUNTFORD.

LETTER XLVII.

COLONEL SEDLEY.

TO

SIR ROBERT SEDLEY.

Bath,

WELL, Bob, I may now ſay, I am over head and ears in love; and what ſort of a perſon do you think it is with? But however, I will tell you the whole affair. You muſt know, the firſt thing Carleton

and I did, was to go and pay a viſit to Lady Betty Modely, and her ſiſter; while we were there, the millener was announced; when ſhe entered, I muſt own, I was myſelf ſtruck with her fine form, and no leſs fine face; as for Carleton, he was in raptures, which ſhe could not avoid ſeeing, and I ſaw it diſconcerted her, as ſhe looked as modeſt as ſhe was handſome. She ſoon afterwards left the room, and George would not let me reſt, till I conſented to go with him, to her own houſe, eſpecially when he was told by ſome gentlemen we met, that ſhe and her ſiſter were called the

beauties of Bath. The next morning, George went, and dragged me along with him, as I really had no inclination to go. However, it was my fate to go, and loſe my heart. We entered the ſhop, where ſat Miſs Mountfort, and her lovely ſiſter: but O, Bob! never did I behold ſuch a divine creature, as the gentle Harriot. She ſeems to be about eighteen; her ſkin is of a moſt dazzling whiteneſs, with the fineſt bloom in her cheek imaginable; and her ſweet blue eyes, make her a perfect Goddeſs. Ah, Bob, if ever I marry, it muſt be juſt ſuch a woman as Harriot Mountfort; or,

by

by Heavens, it ſhall never be at all. I can add no more, but remain

Your affectionate brother,

J. SEDLEY.

P. S. Pray remember me to Lady Sedley.

LETTER XLVIII.

COLONEL RAWDON

TO

EDWARD BALTIMORE, ESQ.

London,

I Think in one of my former letters, Edward, I desired you to give me joy, for having lost a mistress, but now my boy, give me joy, for having found one; but to be more explicit: last Monday night my sister and self, were engaged to go to a ball; when we entered, I saw a lady at the upper end of the room,

room, whoſe face I was not unacquainted with, and inſtantly recollected it to be no other than the divine Lucy Chambers; if you remember, Edward, it was at a ball I firſt beheld her. I immediately went up to the place, where ſhe and Lady Mourland ſat, and paid my compliments to them. A faint bluſh overſpread the lovely Lucy's face, at my approach; and indeed, Edward, I may, without vanity, ſay, that ſhe did not ſeem diſpleaſed when I addreſſed her. I aſked, whether ſhe was engaged with a partner; ſhe replied, with a ſweet ſmile, I do not intend to dance at all. I begged leave to introduce my

ſiſter; it will be a great pleaſure to me, anſwered ſhe, to be acquainted with Colonel's Rawdon's ſiſter. I preſented Charlotte to the lovely Louiſa, and they both ſeemed equally pleaſed with each other; but as Charlotte was ſoon called to join the dancers, I had the pleaſure to entertain Miſs Chambers, the whole evening; and I think, Edward, I never ſpent a more delightful one. When the company was about retiring, Lord Mourland came up, and preſſed my ſiſter and me very much to come and ſee them, which you may be ſure I was not backward of accepting, nor my ſiſter neither. Do you know, the ſaucy

ſlut

ſlut ſays already, ſhe ſees the reaſon of my refuſing Lady Maria Melcombe. I am interrupted, therefore muſt bid you adieu.

Your's ſincerely,

C. RAWDON.

LETTER XLIX.

MISS CHAMBERS

TO

MISS MOUNTFORT.

WELL, my dear Kitty, I have ſeen Colonel Rawdon; and more than that, he and his aimable ſiſter are here almoſt every day. It was at a ball, I again had the pleaſure of ſeeing him, and he paid his compliments with ſuch a grace, that it was impoſſible not to be charmed with him. It does not ſignify mincing

mincing the matter, Kitty, for I certainly do like Colonel Charles Rawdon, above all the men I ever ſaw: we have been twice at his father's houſe, and I aſſure you, I am a great favourite with his old Lordſhip, who, though turned of ſeventy, is a fine looking man, you can't think how happy he and his aimable ſon and daughter ſeem to live: but now my dear friends, I think it is high time to talk a little about your affairs. In the firſt place, I am very glad to hear your couſin Baltimore is at Bath, as I make no doubt, if he is good for any thing, he will ſoon diſcover you. I have enquired about him, and find his

father is dead, and that Lady Baltimore is gone to France. I beg, my dear, you will write as often as you poſſible can, and let me know how you go on, as I am in great hopes your trials are almoſt over. Adieu, my dear Kitty and Harriot, for I hear Colonel Rawdon is below, therefore I am ſure you will excuſe me.

I remain,

Your affectionate friend,

LOUISA CHAMBERS.

LETTER L.

THE HON. MISS RAWDON

TO

MISS MILFORD.

WELL, Emily, here we are, once more in this gay metropolis, and very loth was I to quit the peaceful ſhades of Rawdon-place; but ſince we came, I have met with a lady, whom next to yourſelf, I ſhall moſt eſteem. It is a Miſs Chambers, a diſtant relation of the Earl of Mourland, whoſe houſe ſhe

is at; and if I am not very much miſtaken, my brother nor ſhe have any diſlike to each other; I wiſh it may be ſo, as ſhe ſeems to be a moſt deſerving young lady, and is a great favourite with my father, who, after he had enquired what fortune ſhe had, (and ſhe has thirty thouſand pounds) ſaid, ſhe ſeemed to be a good ſort of a girl. She is very merry, and he likes merry folks; witneſs, his partiality for a certain friend of your's. O, I had almoſt forgot to tell you, Sir Edward Baltimore has left us, and gone to Bath, where he propoſes paſſing a week or two, and then I think he talks of going abroad, in ſearch of his two couſins.

couſins. It ſeems, it was his father's dying requeſt, that he ſhould, if poſſible, find them out, and make ſome recompence, for his uſage to them. Good God! my dear, only think, to turn them adrift, as he did, when they loſt both father and mother, and fortune. I never had the pleaſure of ſeeing either of the ladies, but have always heard a very fine character of both. I fancy, Sir Edward has a motive, even more ſtrong than his father's deſire, to diſcover them, though I am ſure his father's wiſh was ſufficient, as he was always reckoned one of the moſt dutiful ſons of the preſent age; but you muſt know, I think

his

his chief motive is all powerful love, as he never ſpoke of the eldeſt Miſs Baltimore, but in raptures. Well, ſo much for the Baltimore family. Pray, my dear, when am I to have the pleaſure of ſeeing you in London? I ſuppoſe, when we are going to Bath, your Ladyſhip will be coming to town; for my part, I don't care how long the Bath journey is deferred, as I hear Lord Carleton is there, — and, my dear, ſhall I confeſs to you, that in ſpite of that man's behaviour, I cannot diſlike him, as I ought; therefore I ſhould be loth to meet him, my ſpirits are ſo weak and low, to what they uſed to be, that every body,

body perceives it; but I hope the lively converſation of Lucy Chambers, and your no leſs agreeable correſpondence, will ſet me to rights again. Adieu, my dear friend.

Your's as uſual

C. RAWDON.

LET-

LETTER LI.

MISS MOUNTFORT

TO

MISS CHAMBERS.

Bath, Nov. 16th.

I Need not tell my dear Lucy, that to hear of her happineſs always adds to mine; therefore, without farther preface, will proceed to my own affairs. Yeſterday about one o'clock, Lord Carleton, and Colonel Sedly, came to ſee ſome point ruffles; they

they had not been here but a few minutes, when Lady Betty, and Lady Lucy Modely, Lady Maria Lenox, and two Miſs Harringtons entered, one after the other; and now my dear, that you may underſtand it right, I will write it dialogue faſhion.

LADY BETTY MODELY,

Dear Lady Mary, how happy I am to ſee you; when did you come, and how long does your Ladyſhip propoſe ſtaying at Bath?

LADY

LADY MARY LENOX,

Dear Lady Betty, how do you? I only came yeſterday morning, but as to how long I ſhall ſtay, Lord, my dear, how could you aſk me ſuch a queſtion.

LORD CARLETON.

Why, my Lady, I muſt confeſs the queſtion was rather mal-a-propos, as I have heard, a lady ſeldom knows her own mind.

LADY LUCY MODELY,

I am ſure, his Lordſhip ſays very true, for I never continue in the ſame from one hour to another.

COL.

COLONEL SEDLY.

Heavens, Madam, I hope your Ladyſhip never intends to marry.

LADY LUCY, (eagerly)

Not marry Colonel! pray, why not?

COLONEL SEDLY.

Becauſe, if your Ladyſhip is ſo changeable, you may change your mind juſt as you are going to church.

LORD

LORD CARLETON,

Now, Jack, if I was you, I would make up to Lady Lucy, myſelf, and try whether ſhe would or not.

COLONEL SEDLY,

No, my Lord, when I marry, it muſt not be with a lady who changes her mind ſo often.

LADY MARY LENOX,

Pray, ladies, what ſort of company is there here?

LADY

LADY BETTY MODELY,

Indeed, my dear, I can hardly ſay, but the moſt approved of the gentlemen, is, Sir Edward Baltimore.

LADY MARY LENOX,

Lud, who is he? I have heard of that name before.

LORD CARLETON,

He was only ſon to Sir Edward Baltimore, who inherited the eſtate and title from the late Sir Edward, who was killed by a fall from his horſe, two or three years ago.

MISS

MISS HARRINGTON,

I believe he has not been dead ſo long, my Lord, but I have heard ſay, the preſent Sir Edward is come in ſearch of his couſins.

LADY LUCY MODELY,

Good God! are his couſins here, then?

MISS HARRINGTON,

That I can't pretend to ſay.

COLONEL SEDLY,

Good God! is the preſent Sir Edward, nephew to the late Sir Edward

Edward Baltimore, who ruined himſelf by gaming?

LADY BETTY MODELY.

The very ſame.

COLONEL SEDLY,

Pray, my Lady, don't you know what is become of Sir Edward's two daughters? they were at the ſame ſchool with you and Lady Lucy.

LADY BETTY MODELY,

No, indeed I know nothing of them. I heard once, that they were companions to two young la-

dies, who were going to France. Poor things, I really pittied them, for they were brought up in ſuch an expenſive manner, that it muſt be ſhocking for them to get their bread by their labour.

LORD CARLETON,

Pray, Colonel Sedly, have you ever ſeen either of the Miſs Baltimores?

COLONEL SEDLY,

I have, while they were very young, but I have no recollection of them now; therefore I am ſure, I ſhould not know them.

LADY BETTY MODELY.

Look, look, ladies, there is Sir Edward:

At that inſtant he entered the ſhop, only think, my dear Lucy, what a tremor we muſt be in, by his ſudden appearance, and by the preceding diſcourſe. He bowed to all in general; and going up to poor Harriot, deſired to ſee ſome point ruffles. All eyes were on him, and well for us they were; as for him,

he ſeemed buried in thought, and I really believe, had he been aſked if a man or woman ſerved him, he would hardly have known. He bought two pair and paid for them, bowed to Lord Carleton in particular, and the reſt in general, and withdrew. As ſoon as he was gone, Lady Mary exclaimed, he ſeems to be an inſenſible wretch: but, nobody making any anſwer, ſhe ordered us to ſend home the things, wiſhed all a good morning, and quitted the ſhop. Lord Carleton then taking Colonel Sedly by the arm, went alſo, and the reſt of the ladies having by this time, bought

what they wanted, left it likewiſe; in ſhort, this inſenſible wretch, (as Lady Mary called him) ſeemed to ſilence all. And now, my dear Lucy, what would you adviſe us to do? He ſeems unhappy: Miſs Harrington ſaid, he was come in ſearch of his couſins; in ſhort, neither my ſiſter nor ſelf know what is beſt to be done. We are quite bewildered; do, my dear Lucy, give us your advice. They ſay, we are gone to France; therefore, it behoves us to be ſpeedy, if he ſhould have any intention of going in ſearch of us. He looks dejected, — why ſhould he? perhaps it is

upon our accounts; but I don't know what I would ſay, therefore will conclude myſelf

Your ſincere friend,

K. MOUNTFORT.

END of the FIRST VOLUME.

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